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INSIDE

LOCAL



Nine-year-old Juliet D. Inocencio is the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy.

➤ PAGE 7

NATION



House Democrats will try to force votes on wage hike and immigration.

➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE



"12 Years a Slave" is named the best film at the British Academy Film Awards.

➤ PAGE 19

Buckingham may testify at his trial. PAGE 3
Car slams into restroom building at beach. PAGE 5

STUDY ASSESSES VULNERABILITY, URGES CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Susupe to Tanapag are most vulnerable to climate change



VIEW FROM THE TOP

A view from a United Airlines flight window to Saipan yesterday shows portions of Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, which sits on over 730,000 square meters of property at Agingan Point. Officials of the South Korean-based investment giant E Land, though Micronesian Resort Inc., is expected to soon provide more details about its ongoing renovation of Coral Ocean Point and plans for reopening the former Palms Resort Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While the entire island of Saipan will likely see some impacts from climate change in the coming decades, its west side villages and resources located between Susupe and Tanapag "are expected to be impacted the most," based on a newly released, 100-plus page study on Saipan's climate change vulnerability.

See **SUSUPE** on **Page 4**

At least \$88.9M sought for territories

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and his counterparts from Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands asked President Barack Obama to include "no less than \$88.9 million" in "assistance to territories" program funding as the president prepares to submit to U.S. Congress his fiscal year 2015 budget proposal.

See **TERRITORIES** on **Page 4**

Solar panel installations push Hawaii's utilities to the brink

By COLIN STEWART
STEPHENS MEDIA HAWAII

As a result of the high number of rooftop solar photovoltaic installations in 2013, Hawaii's electric utilities are warning that some areas are reaching the saturation point.

Meanwhile, Big Island PV system installers say they're beginning to see

demand for their services slow as competition mounts.

A total of 17,609 installations were performed statewide last year, adding more than 129 megawatts in capacity to the Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric and Hawaii Electric Light Co. grids. That represents a 39 percent increase compared to what was added to the

See **SOLAR** on **Page 4**



Darren Kimura, CEO of Sopogy, demonstrates how his technology uses the Big Island's abundant solar resources. Sopogy's recently-opened solar facility on the Big Island of Hawaii is supplying 500 kilowatts of energy to the island's grid.

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Local

CHCC: Three survey results from CMS issued in January

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued three separate survey results to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in the span of one month, specific to three areas of the hospital: the laboratory department, the dialysis unit, and the Commonwealth Health Center.

All these areas were inspected by federal health teams last year.

"We received three reports over the past month. The first one is for the laboratory, which we did receive our CLIA certification, the other is for the dialysis unit, and the latest is for the hospital's Condition of Participation," said interim corporation CEO Esther Muña.

The lab was at risk of having its CLIA certification revoked in 2012 as a result of multiple citations. January's results showed the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments lifting the suspension of the lab's certification after all deficiencies were deemed fully rectified.

CMS conducts CLIA inspec-

tions every two years. The January decision is for the lab's CLIA certification for 2012-2014. The next inspection—for 2014-2016—is expected this summer.

The next report the corporation got was a nine-page report on the dialysis unit, indicating some issues that need to be corrected within the 10 days allotted by the federal agency. Muña said the corrective action plan for the unit has been submitted and is awaiting a response from Medicare.

"Mainly, those [citations] are housekeeping issues and we addressed them. We're now waiting CMS' response," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that three areas were cited: the lack of a registered dietitian, the credential of the social worker, and issues involving patient's rights.

According to Dr. Sherleen Osman, the corporation's director for Medical Affairs, unlike other CMS surveys, the result for the dialysis unit is not a "pass or fail" rating.

"It is not 'pass or fail.' They found some concerns and they wanted more documents from us. And we addressed them,"

said Osman, adding that no hospital comes out without any citation because the health survey is an ongoing process.

Just five days after receiving the dialysis report middle of last month, CMS then issued its findings on CHC's Condition of Participation, Muña said.

In the 183-page document, CMS put off again its decision on the termination status of the public hospital, giving the corporation more time to rectify remaining concerns noted by a visiting team in September last year. The new deadline is June 27, 2014. This means that the hospital is not off the hook yet and may potentially lose its provider's agreement with CMS if it fails to satisfy the federal agency in its response.

CMS found concerns in nine areas of the hospital, mostly dealing with administrative matters. There was no immediate jeopardy uncovered in the report; however, CHCC still must address the citations incorporated in the report. The corporation's response was turned in on Feb. 7.

CHCC officials said that both surveys in the hospital and laboratory require CMS' decision whether certifications will con-

tinue or be revoked.

When CMS was on island in September last year, they did a

separate survey of the hospital for its "Hospital Condition of Participation" and one for the

Dialysis for ESRD (End Stage Renal Disease) "Facility Conditions of Participation."

THE VIEW ON THE STREET

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
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REPORTER

Yesterday was the Presidents Day, a federal holiday. Saipan Tribune went out and asked people what they know of Presidents Day and why we celebrate it:

"I remember when we used to celebrate George Washington and Abraham Lincoln's birthday. But, what changed that was when President Kennedy was assassinated. That is when instead of celebrating individual Presidents, it was decided to have one holiday in honor of all Presidents."

—**Jim Feger, MHS Rocball Creator**

"It gives me a chance to reflect on my patriotism as a Native American, and to pay homage to the past leaders that upheld the Constitution so that we can continue to be a free nation."

—**Curtis Dancoe, Rotary Club of Saipan secretary**

"I attempt to visit a National Park on Presidents Day in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt's efforts to preserve the beautifully diverse topography of our great nation from the Appalachian Mountains to the gorgeous coral of the Northern Mariana Islands." (Pictured here in the White Sand Dunes National Park, New Mexico.)

—**Brett Mathius Sutton, artist**

"Presidents Day is the day when we celebrate the birthday of George Washington and to honor [him]."

—**Stephanie Camacho Morales, NMC student**

"Presidents Day is actually Washington's birthday and is celebrated on the third Mon-

day of February, to honor the life and works of George Washington and other Presidents."

—**Teisha Camacho, Americorps volunteer and MHS student**

"We became a Commonwealth in 1978 and we are now part of the United States. We celebrate Presidents Day now because united we stand, divided we fall."

—**Ramon Camacho, chairman of the Saipan Municipal Council and Northern Islands**

"We celebrate Presidents Day because it is formally George Washington's birthday, and since he was one of the founding fathers of the U.S and first President."

—**Andreau Galvez, administrative assistant at TSL Foundation**



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Buckingham may testify at his trial

Songao elected as CDA board chair

Diego Songao, Rota's representative on the board of Commonwealth Development Authority, was elected chairman of the agency's board during a recent meeting.

In his brief remarks to the board, Songao expressed gratitude to his fellow members and asked for their continued cooperation.

Songao succeeds former board chair Pete Itibus.

By acclamation, Edward Sablan also got the unanimous support of his peers to be the board's vice chairperson while

Edwin Aldan was elected to the secretary position.

All three will serve two-year terms as board officers.

CDA is an autonomous public agency established in 1985 with the mission to provide economic loan funds to private and public sectors for economic development in the Northern Marianas.

Its board of directors is composed of Songao, Glenn Quitugua, Edwin Aldan, Edward C. Sablan, Ike Perez, and Marcie M. Tomokane. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham is expected to testify today, Tuesday, in his ongoing bench trial in Superior Court.

A source disclosed that attorney Richard Pierce, counsel for Buckingham, will call the former AG to the witness stand when trial resumes today at 9am.

Buckingham refused to comment when asked about this.

If Buckingham will indeed testify, Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback is expected to grill him extensively on cross-examination.

If Buckingham completes his

testimony today, closing arguments may follow.

OPA rested its case last Thursday. Pierce then called some witnesses, including former Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordan Kosam.

The trial began last week.

On Thursday, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, who presided over the bench trial, denied Buckingham's motion for a judgment of acquittal as to five charges—use of public supplies, time and personnel for

campaign activities; use of the name of a government department or agency to campaign and/or express support for a candidate running for public office; misconduct in public office (related to campaign matter); conspiracy to commit theft of services (related to escort issue);

and misconduct in public office (pertaining to escort issue).

Govendo placed under advisement one count of failure to produce documents or information (pertaining to OPA's request). The judge said he needs to review the documents or evidence in this matter.

Atalig told to start serving his 8-month sentence on Saturday

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig to begin serving his eight-month prison term for domestic violence last Saturday.

Wiseman vacated a Dec. 18, 2013, order that allowed the 57-year-old Atalig to begin serving the jail term on Feb. 15, 2015.

It was Atalig who submitted a proposed order to commence serving his sentence on Feb. 15, 2015. Wiseman subsequently signed the order.

In his order issued last week correcting an error, Wiseman said he did not see right away the gross error of

**» Judge corrects
'very disturbing
error' order**

the year 2015 for reporting and "has now reviewed it, finds it a very disturbing error."

The judge said he hopes it was not intentional on Atalig's part.

Wiseman also ordered that no further continuances or extension for reporting to the Department of Corrections shall be granted.

Atalig was sentenced on Nov. 22, 2013, for a total of eight months to serve. At the time, Atalig asked the court to delay his reporting to DOC because he needed to find a job and fulfill many other obligations.

In his affidavit filed in court in December, Atalig said he was then seeking a job at the Department of Public Lands and other private companies.

Atalig said the court does not object for him to be on work release while serving time at DOC. He said due to the need for financial support of his three children, this matter of work release is supported and coordinated by Family Court manager Kevin Villagomez.

Atalig said he needs at least 45 more days to seek employment due to the busy holiday season in December. Atalig said

he believes that 45 additional days is sufficient to find gainful employment.

He said he has discussed this matter with assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty and that the prosecutor does not object or oppose this request.

This request, he said, is made for the purpose of securing employment pending incarceration so that justice can be served while maintaining the ongoing support obligations to his children.

At the Nov. 22 sentencing hearing, Wiseman warned Atalig that he faces a maximum possible jail sentence if he will harass or threaten his former wife and three children again.

Wiseman said he is reluctant to accept the plea agreement that Atalig entered

with the government due to Atalig's "propensity to continue on occasions over at least a 9-year period to get drunk and attack and intimidate his former wife and three kids."

Wiseman cautioned him that any future events of harassing, or threatening his family in any way, or violating any conditions of court orders or probation conditions, will result in the maximum possible sentence of incarceration.

Atalig pleaded guilty to assault and battery, two counts of disturbing the peace, and criminal contempt.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on March 4, 2013 on Saipan, Atalig went to the home of his former wife and their three children, yelled to be let in, kicked the sliding glass door, and walked into the house.

Once inside, Atalig followed his former wife around the dining room table and then began following their then 13-year-old daughter, touching the girl and causing her to trip and fall over.

The defendant's actions violated the court's previous order as at the time, he was still on probation for his 2012 conviction in another domestic case.

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John Gonzales could be GOP's delegate bet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Even as the Republican Party extended up to Feb. 21 the deadline for submission of letters of intent to run in the November general elections, John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales could be on the running again for the party's candidate for nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, sources said.

Gonzales, however, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday he is neither confirming nor denying a delegate candidacy this year. Gonzales is executive director of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.



Gonzales

To date, no one has announced intention to challenge incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who is seeking a fourth term in Congress.

In 2012, Gonzales considered but later declined the Republican Party's nomination to run as delegate for "personal reasons." Gonzales finished third in a nine-way delegate race in 2008, the first time the CNMI held an election for delegate.

Republican Party officials, including acting chair Matilde "Keiko" Rosario and treasurer Ed C. Deleon Guerrero, said yesterday that so far, only six candidates have been official-

ly accepted and endorsed by the GOP.

These include Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) for governor and lieutenant governor; two Saipan senatorial candidates Arnold Palacios and Oscar M. Babauta; and Precinct 2 House members floor leader Ralph Demapan and John Paul Sablan, both from the defunct Covenant Party. Palacios and Babauta are both former House speakers, while Palacios is currently secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

GOP officials, however, acknowledged that many individuals have already expressed interest in running for office through word-of-mouth or through the media.

Rosario said they moved the original Feb. 7 deadline to submit letters of intent to Feb. 21,

Hofschneider is acting CNMI governor until Feb 28

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider will be the CNMI's acting governor starting today until Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Feb. 28 return from a series of meetings in Washington, D.C., press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

Inos leaves Saipan today, along with Demapan. The governor's trip comes four days after the governor declared on Friday a 30-day state of significant emergency for Rota over a shortage of food and other commodities because the sea conditions are preventing a barge from entering the Rota harbor to deliver the goods it usually

which is this Friday.

Meanwhile, Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero said yesterday he has not decided yet whether to run under the Republican Party or not. Leon

brings to the southern island.

The governor will be going to the nation's capital to attend the 2014 National Governors Association's Winter Meeting and the White House's Interagency Group on Insular Affairs Meeting, among other things.

As of yesterday, it's not known whether Inos could have a meeting with U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, who is the main decision maker on whether to grant the CNMI's request to extend the Commonwealth-only worker program.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), meanwhile, said he recently met with Perez

Guerrero ran under the Covenant Party in 2012.

The Covenant Party, whose titular leader was Inos, merged with the Republican Party last year.

at the White House "and impressed upon him how important it is to make this decision soon rather than waiting until the last minute."

"We have been pushing and pushing. All the analysis and agency comment is complete, I believe. The question is on the Secretary's desk," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Without a CW program extension, the CNMI loses immediate access to some 10,000 skilled and professional foreign workers that the Commonwealth economy has relied upon for decades. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

SOLAR

From Page 1

system in 2012.

As of Dec. 31, Hawaiian Electric companies' grids had taken on a total of 40,159 photovoltaic system interconnections, generating a total capacity of 300 MW. That includes 5,355 installations on Hawaii Island, producing up to 38 MW of electric capacity. That number represents 7 percent of Big Island HELCO customers.

According to Hawaiian Electric, 96 percent of the state's

solar installations use net metering, a program begun in 2001 with the intention of encouraging the adoption of rooftop solar. The program allows customers with rooftop solar to receive full retail credit for energy they generate and send to the electric grid. They use that credit to offset the costs associated with energy they take from the grid when solar power doesn't meet their needs, such as at night or on cloudy days.

The "unprecedented rapid growth" in rooftop solar has created a situation where some neighborhood circuits host large

amounts of PV systems, with an increasing number of those circuits reaching points where the connected PV systems generate more capacity than is used by the entire circuit.

"We have this past year encountered a situation where the amount of PV that people are applying to connect to the circuit reaches a point where we have concerns, either with the voltage quantity or safety issues," said Jay Ignacio, HELCO president. "We're currently at the level (on Hawaii Island) where 10 percent of our circuits have reached that point, where we have

to tell people applying to add PV that they need to wait."

Ignacio explained that circuits that generate more electricity than is being used by customers can create situations where voltage is increased and damage can be done to electronic equipment in homes and businesses, including computers and other appliances that may contain sophisticated electronics.

"If there's more generation than energy being used, the energy needs to go some place. ... This is a difficult technical issue, and we're not aware of another utility in the world that has ad-

ressed it. There's no model for us to follow, no resource for us to tap into. We're really creating new frontiers on this," he said.

Ignacio admitted that delays caused by "transient over-voltage" can be very frustrating to customers, but said that as of right now, it's the only way to ensure the electric grid remains safe for all customers.

HELCO engineers are entertaining several different ideas to handle the problem, but have yet to settle on anything concrete.

One way might be to set up a system where HELCO can use appliances connected to the

circuit to create more of a load when it encounters an over-voltage. By transferring the excess energy into something such as a water heater, the system can balance itself out. But, he said, many of those appliances were never designed for such a purpose, and setting them up to be used in such a way could be problematic.

Another concept being explored is a large battery bank that can store excess energy. That too, has its drawbacks.

"The economics of such a system just may not play out," he said.

TERRITORIES

From Page 1

In fiscal year 2014, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs received only \$85.976 million in "assistance to territories" funding, of which more than 90 percent has been awarded to the insular areas in the form of grants.

Sablan took the lead in writing a Feb. 10, 2014, letter to Obama for the fiscal year 2015 budget request, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*

yesterday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment yesterday, said, "In principle, the governor supports this request." But the administration has not seen a copy of this request yet.

Also signing the two-page letter to Obama were Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen, and American Samoa Delegate Eni F.H. Faleomavaega.

"We are writing to request you prioritize the Assistance

to Territories program in your fiscal year 2015 budget proposal for the Office of Insular Affairs of the Department of [the] Interior by including no less than \$88.9 million, which reflects [fiscal year] 2013 enacted level," the delegates told the president.

OIA carries out the responsibility of the Interior secretary for U.S. insular areas.

The delegates said OIA is often called upon as a last resort for the insular areas to fill the gap left by other federal programs, even as the territories

continue to have poverty level three to five times the national level as well as declining population except in Guam.

"It is therefore critically important that [OIA] receive sufficient financial resources to allow it to continue to assist the islands in turning around their struggling economies," they told Obama.

Initiatives funded under the OIA program in recent years have included areas of health management, implementation of audit recommendations and other internal controls, eco-

nom development, public safety, education, clean energy production, and critical environmental infrastructure improvements.

The delegates said the president's budget proposal would reflect the Obama administration's continued priority to implement federal policies such as promoting economic development on the islands.

The president's budget is usually delivered to Congress on the first Monday of February, but it has been delayed until early March this year because

of the government shutdown last October.

Sablan separately said over the weekend that the specific programs he has supported for the CNMI include increased funding for Title I education and special education grants that are crucial to the Public School System, port and harbor project funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, more money for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP, weatherization, and state energy grants that help lower power costs.

SUSUPE

From Page 1

Saipan has varying levels of vulnerability to climate change within its villages and along its shoreline, especially its western coastal plain which hosts the majority of coastal populations, services and infrastructure.

These include hotels, restaurants, shopping centers, other tourism-related activities, and residential areas.

"Specifically, the low-lying areas, critical infrastructure, residential and commercial districts, and habitats that are located within Garapan and Lower Base should be prioritized as climate change adaptation planning moves forward in the CNMI," the document says.

To address these vulnerabili-

ties, the study suggests a focus on climate change "adaptation," to identify impacts that may be unavoidable and temper any harmful effects from sea level rise and changes to rainfall patterns.

These should include the integration of sea level rise considerations into current and future flood control studies, public works projects, and assessments of proposed development impacts.

For example, the Department of Public Lands may encourage strategic landscaping along threatened beaches, or promote the rotational use of non-permanent structures for beachside recreational facilities.

Coastal vegetation and wetland growth, along with adopting revised floor hazard zoning, are also among specific examples.

Even small-scale revitaliza-

tion and beautification projects offer opportunities to expand the climate change discussion into attractive community development, such as the Saipan Mayor's Office's 2014 "Sunset Garden" installations along Beach Road, the document says.

"While this vulnerability assessment identifies vulnerabilities and recommends adaptation priorities, effective progress and prioritization of climate change adaptation hinges on the collaboration and support of CNMI decision makers, policy makers and government agencies," the document says.

The "Saipan Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment" is the product of a yearlong collaboration between the Division of Coastal Resources Management under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and

participating entities of the CNMI Climate Change Working Group.

The group recently presented the findings to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other administration officials on Capital Hill.

Inos has been bringing up the issue of climate change in regional meetings. At the Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit in December, the governors of Micronesian islands called for more U.S. help to the islands in addressing global warming, especially on "adaptation" processes.

The new document is intended as an initial screening tool for prioritization of climate adaptation work on Saipan. Use of vulnerability assessment should be limited to broad planning and policy purposes, the document says.

Over the past year-and-a-half,

more than 70 individuals representing 28 different institutions have participated in the CNMI Climate Change Working Group meetings and trainings. They include local and federal agencies and organizations.

The Western North Pacific—which includes the CNMI, Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands—is expected to experience rising sea levels, increasing air and sea surface temperatures, and shifting precipitation patterns.

Tiny Micronesian islands bear the brunt of climate change impacts—from rising seas and disappearing coastlines, to dying crops and displacements of islanders—yet they are the least contributor, if at all, to carbon emissions and other causes.

The document also says the

findings of the vulnerability assessment encourage Saipan's stakeholders to assume responsibility for their future interests and adapt.

CNMI government agencies, it says, will need to adopt climate change as a standard consideration in project development and decision-making processes.

The Legislature, it adds, will need to evaluate policies that impact community structure, taking into account potential effects on income sources that rely on natural resources.

"This consideration also applies to the tourism industry and private enterprises in the CNMI, which are ultimately dependent on natural and physical systems that this vulnerability assessment identified as vulnerable," the document adds.

Car slams into restroom building at beach

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Two teenagers were allegedly racing cars along Beach Road when one of the vehicles swerved and crashed into a concrete restroom at Pak Pak Beach Park in San Antonio Sunday afternoon.

A 17-year-old girl, the driver of a blue Mazda RX 8, was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for minor abrasions on the left arm and was released hours later.

The driver of the other vehicle, a red Honda Prelude, was a 19-year-old male.

Both drivers are acquaintances, according to Department of Public Safety police spokesman Travis Hurst.

Hurst said it was determined that speed was a factor in the crash.

"This case is pending further investigation with formal charges being sought on the drivers of both vehicles," Hurst said.

Traffic officers were dispatched to a reported auto crash in front of Pak Pak Beach Park in San Antonio on Sunday at 3:52pm.

Hurst said that he and another

officer arrived at the scene and saw the severely damaged blue Mazda RX 8 in front of the rest-

room building at the park.

Hurst said that after interviewing witnesses, it was deter-

mined that the Mazda RX 8 and Honda Prelude were racing on the highway.

The driver of Mazda RX 8 suddenly stepped on the brakes and lost control on the gravel

side of the road. The car then slammed into the concrete restroom building.



JAYSON CAMACHO

JOURNEYMAN GRADUATION

DFS 2014 Journeyman graduates pose with the 2012 Journeyman graduates and their managers after the graduation ceremony on Feb. 13, 2014. Bottom, from left to right: Xiu Hocog; Ana Marie Manansala; Merarcy Templado; Tiffany and Bvlgari manager Luz Ito; Tomoko Esteves; JoJo Juson; and Wantha Aldrich. Top, from left to right: Miao Larimer; Cindy Piliwale; Charlene Terry; Marieta Sapong; Gucci/Ferragamo/Loewe manager Emy Camacho; Didi Woodruff; Carol Aguon, and Nikika Harris.

Inos: \$1.2M Navy Hill property officially back at DPL

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Navy Hill property that was once designated to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is now officially transferred back to the Department of Public Lands.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos confirmed this with *Saipan Tribune* Sunday, saying any and all transactions related to the property will now go through DPL as the proper administrator of public lands.

"The last time I checked... that property now belongs to DPL and whether it is for private or commercial development, it's the DPL's job to handle those matters," Inos said during Sunday's Republican Party get-together in Susupe.

When asked if the administration anticipated any problems in taking back the property, Inos replied: "There shouldn't be a problem on that because that belongs to the government."

Inos explained that the process of transferring the property back to DPL requires no complex involvement of possible court process as the Executive Branch can do a lateral transfer of property from one government entity to another.

"So as far as the administration is concerned, this thing has already been resolved and, yes, the Navy Hill property is now back at DPL," he said.

It was in November last year when the Inos administration, through Attorney General Joey San Nicolas, conveyed the gov-

ernor's wish to have the property re-transferred to DPL.

It was in January 2012 when then-governor Benigno Fitial assigned the parcels of land on Navy Hill to the healthcare corporation as a means for it to raise revenue by opening the properties to leases.

The designated properties are Lot Nos. 098 D 04 and D 05, both adjacent to the hospital and totaling 38,500 square

meters, with an estimated value of \$1.2 million.

This same property is also encumbered due to the corporation's line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust. CHCC had informed the MPLT board that it wants to renew for another year the \$3 million line of credit after paying the principal of its existing loan by March 12 this year.

CHCC interim CEO Esther

Muña acknowledged the impact of losing the Navy Hill property as a source of additional revenue for the public hospital.

"The loss of this asset for CHCC is significant. CHCC needs financial help as long as the government doesn't pay for the indigent and the loss of Medicaid matching," said Muña.

It will be recalled that in April last year, the CHCC board approved to offer for

lease a portion of the designated public lands. The decision was reached following receipt of a proposal from Landscape Management Systems Inc. in Guam, which wants to respond to an announcement by the U.S. government's General Services Administration. The board recommended that the corporation enter into an option to lease up to 10,000 square meters of the land.

GSA had announced that it is seeking to lease a property on Saipan where it can build a

courtroom, administrative office, and law enforcement office. Landscape Management System, using CHCC property for its plan, wanted to respond to this announcement. A protest was later lodged by another interested party and a case is now pending in court.

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Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
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Tel: (670) 234-7859 • Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,)
Plaintiff,) CIVIL ACTION
vs.) NO. 11-0104
VICENTE P. CASTRO and)
DOLORES C. PANGELINAN,) AMENDED
and) SUMMONS
PREPEDIANA KILELEMAN,)
BERNARD KILELEMAN and,)
TYRONE KILELEMAN,)
Successors in Interest,)
Defendants.)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS
VICENTE P. CASTRO and
DOLORES C. PANGELINAN:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

SO ORDERED on this 30th day of January 2014.
/s/ Clerk of Court

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **February 20**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **February 20**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE


You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **February 20**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

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Tinian/Rota Office — up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza — up to 6:00pm
Online payment — up to 9:00pm



The House of Representatives
18TH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Garapan Elementary School, Cafeteria.

AGENDA

House Joint Resolution 18-14: Requesting that the Honorable Governor Eloy S. Inos oppose any and all proposed military use of Pagan and oppose any increase military activities in the Northern Islands.

Members of the general public are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing. Oral testimony may be presented during the public hearing.

/s/ Rep. Trenton B. Conner
Chairman, Federal and Foreign Affairs

Inos: No decision yet on MOE formula

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has yet to receive any decision from the U.S. Department of Education whether or not it accepted the CNMI's request to change the formula in calculating the maintenance of effort or MOE requirement.

When it awarded the Commonwealth \$44 million in ARRA funding in 2009, the federal agency made it a condition that a certain percentage of the government budget will be allocated to public education, and this is what is calls the MOE

requirement. It is calculated as equivalent to 40 cents to \$1 dollar or 25 percent of the CNMI's overall government budget.

Based on the books of the Public School System, the central government owes PSS some \$7 million in unremitted MOE covering fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

Inos, however, says the final number hasn't been calculated yet pending the USDOE decision.

The issue over the MOE formula came to light after the CNMI government filed a waiver application for it in 2012.

"On the question of how much, we need to finalize it and

this is contingent on the decision to be made by the feds," according to Inos.

He pointed out, though, that despite some improvements in the economy, the government has no capability at this time to make such payment to PSS.

"Assuming their claim that the central government owes PSS \$6 million in MOE, there's no way the government can appropriate that much," said Inos.

Saipan Tribune learned that Inos met Wednesday last week with Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, and the board's legal

counsel to specifically discuss the unresolved MOE issue.

"In fact, in that meeting, I suggested that any MOE due PSS from the administration maybe...we can work something out and applied against what they owe the [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.]," said the governor.

Education officials earlier said that PSS has no funds to pay its obligations to CUC, which ironically totals \$6 million covering debts from past fiscal years. CUC has filed a collection lawsuit against PSS.

Inos told *Saipan Tribune* that staff at his office is spe-

cifically working on the MOE matter and is communicating with USDOE. He believes the matter "would be resolved pretty soon."

But, according to BOE chair Guerrero, PSS and the board were made to believe that the "old formula" used in calculating the MOE will be maintained.

This, he told *Saipan Tribune*, was expressed to PSS officials in numerous off-island meetings with USDOE executives.

"We know from the beginning that the feds would not change [the MOE formula]. At this time, it really doesn't mat-

ter really how much the government owes PSS...we just want them to pay," Guerrero said Friday.

MOE funds must come from the local coffers. If the CNMI fails to comply with the MOE requirement, the government may end up returning the \$44 million in ARRA funds it got in 2009.

Because there was no specific timeframe as to when the CNMI must meet this MOE requirement, Guerrero said there's a need for USDOE to have some sort of formal document that will convey its seriousness on the matter.



TAX SEMINAR

Attendees of the successful 2014 MIFICPA Tax Seminar have their picture taken with main speaker David J. Burger, CPA, on Feb. 15, 2014, at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ex-resto owner found liable to pay damages to 2 employees

The Department of Labor has found a former restaurant owner liable to pay damages to two of its then employees for breach of contract by closing the business without advance notice to the workers.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered K.Y.S. Enterprises Inc. to pay Alice B. Figueroa and Cesar L. Abobo \$976.80 each for damages.

K.Y.S. was also found owing the two complainants repatriation tickets in the event that they notify Labor of their intent to depart the CNMI within the initial contract period.

The hearing officer did not find KSA Corp., the company that bought the restaurant, liable to the workers' claims.

According to Labor records, Figueroa and Abobo began working for K.Y.S. Enterprises, which owns Hot Curry Bar & Restaurant, in 2009 as a waitress and cook, respectively. Yun Dong managed the business. The two employees worked at Hot Curry until August 2013.

Prior to 2013, K.Y.S. had obtained CW status for the two employees, then renewed that status in 2013.

In June 2013, Dong informed the employees that she was planning to sell the restaurant

and return to China. In early 2013, Dong told employees that Linlin Chen had decided to buy the restaurant. Dong assured the employees that the new owner would "take care of them."

On Aug. 25, 2013, in the presence of Chen, Dong told the employees that Chen had bought the restaurant and she would be leaving the CNMI in less than a week. Dong then paid the employees the wages that they had earned up to that date.

Chen told the employees she planned to close the restaurant briefly for cleaning and minor renovations, then open under a new name, Serene Bar & Grill. Chen asked the employees to assist in the cleanup, but made no statement about long-term employment.

On Sept. 7, 2013, Figueroa received a text message from Chen, telling her to pick up her salary tomorrow "and find yourself a new job."

Abobo worked on the cleanup, then as a cook at the new restaurant from Sept. 1 to 7, 2013. He was also told on Sept. 7 that it was his last day of work.

On Sept. 8, 2013, Chen reviewed the hours the complainants had worked and paid each of them in cash for those hours (\$280 to Figueroa and

\$416 to Abobo).

Chen didn't tell them why she no longer wanted them to work.

Both employees believed that they were legally entitled to continued employment with the new owner because of statements made to them by their former manager.

On Sept. 11, 2013, Figueroa and Abobo went to the Labor Hearing Office and filed complaints against K.Y.S. and KSA Corp. for breach of contract, wrongful termination, and unfair treatment. They each sought compensation for at least six months' wages.

In an administrative order released last week, Cody said he finds credible the testimony of KSA Corp. president Il Hwan Kim and manager Linlin Chen, who both testified regarding KSA Corp.'s takeover of the leased premises of Hot Curry.

The only other negotiating party to that sale, K.Y.S. general manager Dong, had already left the CNMI and did not testify.

Chen stated categorically that the sale concerned only the restaurant and bar equipment—not all assets and liabilities of K.Y.S.

Cody ruled that each employee's termination was not done for an unlawful purpose, there-

fore they have no valid labor claims against K.S.A. Corp., including any claims for breach of contract, wrongful termination, or unpaid wages.

Cody noted that K.S.A.'s conduct does not seem particularly humane to the workers but such conduct was not illegal or in breach of any contract.

He said that KSA was not bound by that contract and that KSA employed the complainants on an "at-will" basis; therefore, they could be terminated without cause.

K.Y.S., on the other hand, failed to appear at the mediation hearing despite being served with notice and was therefore found in default.

Cody said the general manager closed K.Y.S.'s business with no advance written notice to employees, and left no advance salary or repatriation tickets for the two employees.

Cody said the fact that the new employment with KSA was "possible" did not relieve K.Y.S. of its obligation to provide a minimum of 30 days' advance written notice—in essence 30 days' salary—to all employees whose contract was being terminated as a result of the business closure. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Yolanda Cruz's journey to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce

A thriving success and mother of a beautiful baby girl, Yolanda Cruz's dedication and hard work has earned her the opportunity to work with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce through the Workforce Investment Agency's Work Experience Program.

"I had mixed emotions," Cruz recalls. "Although I was nervous, I knew that this would be the opportunity to prove that I am the right candidate for the job."

Knowledge attained through Pinnacle Staffing's Workforce Readiness training paid off as she was selected for the position to train as an administrative assistant with the Chamber that same day after her interview with former mentor, Janice A. Tenorio. The guidance received during WEP provided a gateway to a successful transition with the business organization.

"My first day of work was on Oct. 12, 2012, and it was under the guidance of my mentor, Ms. Emi H. Agulto, and my former supervisor, Mrs. Janice A. Tenorio, that I have been able to learn and develop skills that will help me in all my fu-



ture aspirations," added Cruz.

Cruz also has attributed her outcome to WIA, Saipan Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, former executive director Richard Pierce and current executive director Patrick Leon Guerrero, as well as her current supervisor, Agulto.

Cruz's words of encouragement to others seeking for job training opportunities: "Every career must begin somewhere and I encourage all individuals seeking employment training to consider starting with the Workforce Investment Agency. I am a WIA trainee success and I hope you can be one too," she said. **(PR)**

Juliet Inocencio is 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A fourth grade student of San Vicente Elementary School ran off with the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy title last Saturday in front of a jam-packed crowd at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Nine-year-old Juliet D. Inocencio bested 19 other equally talented and lovely contestants after wowing the judges with her quick wit and impressive rendition of Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*.

With a voice and stage presence well beyond her years, the youngest daughter of Julito and Elena Dariguez made a good impression on the judges that included Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago, Microl Corp. sales associate Liza Taylor, former Miss Teen Philippines Joy Yumul, 2002 Miss Teen CNMI Gina Duenas, and 2003 Miss Northern Marianas Universe/World Kimberly Reyes.

She mimicked the British star's contralto with gusto, channeled her inner Tina Turner, and rocked the venue—filled to capacity by close to 600—like no other. That seemed good enough to win her Best Talent.

In the question and answer portion, Inocencio was asked the question: What makes you happy and why?

Her short and sweet response: "What makes me happy is having a strong, loving, and healthy family. Because they give the unconditional love that I need."

Shortly after being crowned as the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy, Inocencio was much more voluble in her gratitude. "When I was at home [before the competition]. It was like 'Oh my God I'm so scared.' But I asked for God's help. As always, He's the mightiest, strongest, and the Bible says 'What you ask for will be given.' So I'm going to thank

God... I get my confidence from God, family, and the people who love me and tell me to always believe in what would happen and to always be confident and try your best."

She also thanked her Key-notes teacher, Tess Tenorio, for giving her a crash course in singing the past month.

Her parents, for their part, said they couldn't be more proud of Inocencio, who her mom said has always loved singing even at a tender age.

Finishing second to Inocencio in the competition is Green Meadow School second grader Ariel Allyssa Legaspi. Aside from copping first runner-up, the 7-year-old also won Best in Evening Gown and Darling of the Crowd plum.

Coming in third place was Lyssa Rae Steele of Mt. Carmel School. The 6-year-old also took home the Best Spirit Award.

Garapan Elementary School's Francine Joy Ebuen finished

fourth and took the Star of the Night honors, while Trisha Joyce McCarthy of William S. Reyes Elementary School came in fifth.

Inocencio bagged \$800 for her win, including a crown, scepter, cape, sash, and bouquet courtesy of main sponsor Docomo Pacific.

Legaspi, meanwhile, earned \$500, while Steele, Ebuen, and McCarthy got \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively.

In other special awards, Best In Smile went to Charice T. Silvano, Miss Photogenic was Angelica May Aquino, and Miss Friendship was copped by Angel Lou Buensalido.

The 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy was organized by the United Filipino Organization.

The event's sponsors were LBC Mabuhay, Eli Arago, Gemma Batusin, Ahbhu Auto Care Center, Alpex Saipan, Inc., Konstrak Builders, Gener Garcia of Asia Pacific Industries, Inc., Sandy Palon of Re-

liance Construction, Barny's Pizza & Pasta House, Traders Insurance Co., Natasha Sundance Service Center, Island Florals & Gifts, New Paradise Florist, Island Touch by Philip, Island Flowers & Novelties, Mariana Resort & Spa, Smile Marianas, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, National Office Supply, Taro Sue Store, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Shenanigans Restaurant, Don Pedro Restaurant, Pacific Quick Print & Post, *Beach Road Magazine*, KWAU Radio Station, *Marianas Variety*, *Saipan Tribune*, Serenity Salon, Shear Magic Beauty Salon, Makeover Beauty Salon, Trends Beauty Salon, Dianne Beauty Parlor, Hair Salon, R-Lynns Dress Shop. Saipan Music & Dance Studio, Cutz & Clours Salon.

UFO president Annamae Adaza gave special thanks to all parents of the candidates of the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy.



PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO

Juliet D. Inocencio, second from left, won the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy last Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. Joining her in the photo are, from left, Docomo Pacific's Lei Hicaro, 2003 Miss Northern Marianas Universe/World Kimberly Reyes, and 2012 Little Miss Philippines Bernice Shane Sabino.



Inocencio expertly performs her version of Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*.



Angel Lou Buensalido receives her Miss Friendship bouquet from LBC Mabuhay general manager Val Gatchalian.



Garapan Elementary School's Francine Joy Ebuen finished fourth and took the Star of the Night honors.



Green Meadow School's Ariel Allyssa Legaspi was first runner-up and also won Best in Evening Gown and Darling of the Crowd plum.



Francine Joy Ebuen receives her third runner-up prize from Tan Holdings SVP Eli Arago.



Lyssa Rae Steele of Mt. Carmel School was the second runner-up and also took home the Best Spirit Award.



Green Meadow School's Ariel Allyssa Legaspi receives her first runner-up prizes from 2002 Miss Teen CNMI Gina Duenas while Nelida Atalgai looks on.

PSS wants to tap service of legislative consultant

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System may soon bring in an expert that will primarily assist the system in working on legislative matters.

This after the PSS and the Board of Education announced last week that they are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in becoming a "legislative consultant" for PSS.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero told Saipan Tribune Friday that the decision to tap the ser-

vices of a legislative consultant for public schools is to ensure that PSS concerns on specific legislation and other related matters are properly conveyed to lawmakers.

"We have so much things to do at the board and certainly we need assistance. Board members don't get compensation and a lot of times we're going around. But we're doing all this for our students. By getting on-board a legislative consultant, it will be a great help to us and the PSS," Guerrero explained.

The board has a standing committee on legislative matters,

chaired by board vice chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita. According to Guerrero, the hiring of a legislative consultant will not conflict with the work of this panel.

The proposed consultant, once hired, will be under the supervision and authority of the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Guerrero explained some specific tasks of the new consultant.

"We need to figure out how we can talk more on one-to-one basis to our lawmakers to get something moved and accomplished within the Legislature.

And that's basically the task we're expecting from the consultant," said Guerrero.

He disclosed that PSS comments on some pending bills were ignored in the past. "They [lawmakers] request comments and they usually ignore it and it's frustrating on our part. We provided PSS' comments and they just do the opposite," he said.

Guerrero said he personally support Sablan's decision to tap a consultancy service on legislative issues so that someone can focus on each and every legislation that will impact public schools.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 18, 2006

Govt mulls cutting work hours

The Fitial administration is leaving no corner uncut in its drive to reduce government spending. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial disclosed in his weekly press conference yesterday a plan to decrease the work hours of government employees, particularly administrative and non-essential workers. As in other government cost-cutting measures, the proposal would not affect essential services such as the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Public School System. Fitial said the plan would be discussed in the next Cabinet meeting scheduled for Tuesday. It could be implemented next week.

Micronesian Games hosting still alive

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gave local athletes and fans of sports throughout the region cause for a brief celebration yesterday afternoon after announcing that he will entertain a financial plan to host the 2006 Micronesian Games put forth by concerned members of the athletic community. "Next Friday, if nothing develops from the chairman's visit to Palau, we'll get together... and we'll decide, based on the quantification of the requirements—because we have to quantify every single support that the government will be providing—and then we'll make a decision the same day," Fitial said. A crowd of protestors rallied outside Fitial's Capitol Hill office yesterday afternoon in hopes of convincing him to rescind his previous decision to withdraw the CNMI from hosting the Games. Following the governor's regularly scheduled press conference, Fitial invited the group of concerned athletes, coaches, parents, and supporters for an audience inside the conference room to hear their requests.

February 18, 2007

Warning out vs certain peanut butter brands

The CNMI Department of Public Health has issued an advisory, warning the public against eating certain peanut butter, Peter Pan and Great Value, following reports that consumption of these brands led to a salmonella outbreak in the U.S. mainland. "This notice serves as a warning for the general public not to eat certain jars of peanut butter manufactured from ConAgra, Georgia, USA... Consumers are advised to check their home supply and discard abovementioned peanut butter purchased since May 2006," said Public Health Secretary Kevin P. Villagomez in a public notice released yesterday.

Path to Port Project construction to start soon

The Path to Port Project is expected to commence anytime as the Department of Public Works had already given a go signal for the contractor to proceed with the work. DPW Secretary Jose S. Demapan said the contractor, AIC, has been notified to begin the construction. Demapan said under the plan, the end part of the pathway at the Puerto Rico Dump will be continued all the way to the port. The project will cost about \$300,000 or less than \$400,000 and that DPW is only waiting for AIC to commence construction, he said. Demapan cited that a few weeks ago, the Office of Insular Affairs issued the authorization to proceed.

February 18, 2008

Bill to exempt CUC from paying 1 percent of OPA budget introduced

A bill has been introduced to exempt the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation from a requirement to remit one percent of its budget to the Office of the Public Auditor. The proposed legislation says the required contribution to OPA is an additional cost that is ultimately passed on to the customers, including the government itself. Removing the requirement will lessen CUC's cost and help make power services more affordable to the customers.

CUC owed \$600K by private firm

An undisclosed private company continues to get electric service despite owing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. approximately \$600,000. CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero has said that the company has not been disconnected because it has agreed to a payment plan with the utility. "To their [company's] credit, they have complied with the agreed upon payment plan," Guerrero told the House of Representatives in a recent meeting.



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The medical response staff and directors of the Saint Michael's Emergency Medical Team pose with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve volunteer Rose Igitol, center, outside St. Michael's after the signing of a statement of support for the ESGR Thursday last week.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Sex trafficker sentenced to over 19 years in prison

On Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, in the U.S. District Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Chang Ru Meng Backman, 41, of the People's Republic of China, to 235 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for sex trafficking. Manglona also ordered Backman to pay \$9,750 in restitution to the victim.

Following the sentencing, U. S. Attorney for the Districts of

Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, stated, "The heinous crime of sex trafficking dehumanizes its victims and involves the exploitation of the vulnerable by those motivated by power and greed. This prosecution, brought through the hard work of the FBI in collaboration with local law enforcement and the CNMI Attorney General's Office, represents law enforcement's tireless pursuit of those responsible for the sexual exploitation of women and the commitment to attaining justice for the victims of these horrible crimes."

"The sentence imposed by

the court sends the message that sex trafficking schemes will not be tolerated. We will continue to find traffickers and hold them accountable for their crimes," added Limtiaco.

Backman was convicted of one count of sex trafficking in June 2013, following a jury trial. Backman, who was the "boss-lady" of a bar known as the Holiday Karaoke Club, coerced a vulnerable Chinese woman into having sex with customers of the club for her own financial gain. Backman preyed upon the woman who had been enticed to come to Saipan from China with promises of work as a farm

laborer, cleaning person in a hotel, or wait staff in a restaurant. Once the woman arrived, Backman used her debt, lack of legal immigration status, and inability to speak English to compel her to engage in commercial sex acts at Backman's bar. Backman drove the woman to and from the bar so that the woman could have sex with men at Backman's direction.

The case was investigated by FBI Special Agent Jaime Prida, and the United States was represented at trial by assistant U.S. attorneys Rami S. Badawy and Ross K. Naughton, and Limtiaco. (USAO)

The CNMI gets the facts on D.A.T.!

In observance of National Drug Facts Week, Jan. 27 to Feb. 2, 2014, the Community Guidance Center- Substance Abuse Prevention Unit, Project Brabu, conducted several activities in an effort to increase awareness and knowledge about D.A.T.!: Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco.

Drug Facts Week activities included "Drug Facts Trivia" on Power 99 radio station; random drug facts shown daily on KSPN 2 News; and a "Drug

Facts Chat" where youth were able to ask health professionals questions online concerning alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Although the chat session is finished, the public can still ask questions online at ask.fm/ProjectBrabu. All questions are anonymous.

Project Brabu thanks all those who participated in the Drug Facts Week activities and sends a big thank you to its partners and supporters in our efforts to help

keep the CNMI a safe, healthy, and drug-free community!

Congratulations to "Drug Facts Trivia" winners: Teresa Saures, Rudy Sablan, Lovely Diestro, Carlo Santos, Deverly Madrachelvib, Peter Aldan, Jordan Basa, Margarita Aldan, Linda Alvarez, and Lence Kubarh.

For more information about Drug Facts Week and Substance Abuse Prevention in the CNMI, call (670) 323-6560/61. (CHCC/CGC)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Naomi Camacho Cepeda! May God bless you on your special day, sis. No matter how far you are, I am still thinking of you on your special day. Cheers and enjoy. Miss and love you much. Greetings come from Kim, Eric, and Izaiah.

WaterSense H₂Otel Challenge seeks to encourage water savings

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently launched the WaterSense H₂Otel Challenge as a way for agency partners and other organizations to encourage hotels to use best management practices that will save water and money, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

"Hotels that reduce their water use will not only help their community save precious resources, but can gain a competitive edge in today's green marketplace," said Nancy Stoner, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Water. "Since 2006, WaterSense has helped Americans save more than 487 billion gallons of water, and now we're building on that success to help hotels take their sustainability efforts to the next level."

From New York City's Times Square to the Las Vegas strip, hotels across the country will take a pledge to "ACT"—assess, change, and track their water use in the following ways:

- Assess water use and savings opportunities throughout the hotel.

- Change products and processes to more water-efficient models and methods.

- Track water reduction progress before and after incorporating best management

» Campaign helps hotels save water and money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions

practices.

Caesars Entertainment is the first company to sign up for the H₂Otel Challenge.

"At Caesars Entertainment's resorts throughout the country, we know that sustaining our local water supply is as important as providing the best entertainment experience we can to our guests. Over the last few years

we successfully implemented several water saving projects, such as adding low-flow showerheads and sink aerators at our Las Vegas resorts. We are excited to participate in the WaterSense H₂Otel Challenge and to identify where we can make even greater improvement to our operations," said Eric Dominguez, corporate di-

rector of Engineering, Utilities and Environmental Affairs for Caesars Entertainment.

"Here in Las Vegas, the hospitality industry is critical to our local economy. Fortunately, our hotel and resort industry has long been a valuable partner in our successful efforts to improve water efficiency in the hospitality sector," said Doug Bennett, Conservation Manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority. "We

are excited that some of our largest resorts will share their knowledge and participate in the H₂Otel Challenge."

By tackling projects throughout their properties, hotels can find ways to improve their water efficiency and performance while providing the highest quality experience for guests. To help hotels make operational changes and meet growing customer demand for green lodging, EPA will initiate a series of

educational webinars and provide free tools based on the on-line guide, *WaterSense at Work: Best Management Practices for Commercial and Institutional Facilities*. WaterSense will also offer outreach materials for hotels to publicize their efforts and celebrate their successes with guests and employees.

For more information about the challenge, visit the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/challenge. (EPA)

UOG enrollment increases over 3 pct. for spring 2014

Despite national trends of falling enrollment in higher education, enrollment at the

University of Guam continues to rise. UOG Admissions has reported a certified enrollment

of 3,628 students for spring 2014, which is an increase of over 3 percent from spring 2013 and the highest spring enrollment since the year 2000.

With 287 graduate students and over 3,300 undergraduate students, UOG enrollment continues its upward trajectory.

"This demonstrates the confidence our community has in the University of Guam," said

» **3,628 students represent highest spring enrollment in nearly 15 years.**

Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, interim senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs.

"The university offers relevant, high-quality programs which meet the needs of our island and region and continue to attract students."

In the last two years, the university has achieved some notable milestones in enrollment and revenues. In academic year 2012-2013, UOG achieved its highest enrollment numbers in



UOG University of Guam students gather at the spring 2014 student orientation.

the last 15 years and conferred nearly 500 degrees in one of the largest graduating classes in UOG history. In 2012, University revenues reached an all-time high of \$104 million, driven by \$50 million in grants and contracts that provide education, research, service and

capacity building in areas such as disabilities, agriculture, water quality, cancer and more. Most recently, the fall 2013 semester saw the university's highest enrollment since fall 1999 at 3,836.

"These record levels of student enrollment and revenues

demonstrate the impact of the university to the island and region," said UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood. "This year, we will be graduating our 15,000th student, another milestone in our 62-year history."

The University of Guam began as the Territorial College of Guam in 1952 and became the University of Guam in 1968. In 1972, UOG received land-grant status.

UOG is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and offers 34 undergraduate degree programs and 15 graduate degree programs, including two fully online graduate programs: Master of Education in Reading and Professional Master of Business Administration. (UOG)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Standing front, from left: Patricia Birozel, Coring Edsuma, Gloria Baguion, Loisa Cabuhat-outgoing President, Consul Edgar Tomas Auxillan, Nilda Estampador, president; first lady Christine S. Calvo, Lynda Tolan, U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco, Annette Ada, Sen. V. Anthony Ada, Presiding Judge Alberto Lamorena, Philippine Consul General Bayani Mangibin, Annie Hernandez-Lumba, Chet Brocka-Neri, Elizabeth San Nicolas, and Susan Larosa. Standing at the back, from left: Leonila Ronquillo, Marites Barrogo, Tess Swift, Annie Gozum-Soto, Gloria Estampador, Lorie Castelo, Shirley Trinidad, Violy Nombre, and Aida Miranda.

Limtiaco keynotes FLAG induction rites

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, District of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, was invited by the Filipino Ladies Association of Guam to be the keynote speaker at their 53rd induction of executive officers and board of directors on Jan. 12, 2014.

Limtiaco congratulated and commended the association for their commitment to fostering unity among its membership, and improving the bonds of friendship among the people of Guam. FLAG members have

supported and advocated for important fundamental issues—as evidenced by the over 50 years of community service, accomplishments, and meaningful contributions involving human rights and human dignity, cultural preservation, education, health, and international goodwill and understanding.

Limtiaco spoke about the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the importance of a community's commitment to equality and the advancement of human rights and human dig-

nity for all.

"On Jan. 20, we pay tribute to the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to honor his legacy—his everlasting and steadfast contributions to the struggle and achievement of equality and freedom for human kind, and racial, social and economic justice. It is then appropriate that we come together as one community to dialogue and take action against all forms of oppression of the human spirit—to combat against human trafficking, family violence,

sexual assault, and child abuse," stated Limtiaco.

She also spoke about President Barack Obama's proclamation of January 2014 as "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month."

"Human trafficking is a severe crime that deprives and violates victims of their fundamental human dignity, and is a global international issue. To combat human trafficking in our Pacific region, the nation, and globally—we must all be aware of the harsh realities of trafficking and mobilize collaborative efforts to end it. All federal

and local law enforcement, social services, victim advocacy groups, medical, mental and public health professionals, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, private sector, civic organizations and fellow community stakeholders, must work together to effectively prevent human trafficking, protect and be responsive to the needs of victims, and hold offenders accountable," said Limtiaco.

She shared the commitment of the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Offices to work collaboratively

with all stakeholders to prevent human trafficking, family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in our island communities; to protect victims and survivors; and to hold offenders accountable. She also emphasized that public education and outreach are critical to sensitizing the community and ourselves about the importance of, and the role and responsibility each and every one of us has as individuals and in our professional and official capacities, in prevention and enforcement efforts. (USAO)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Why GOP reversed course—again—on immigration reform

By CARL LEUBSDORF
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Well, that didn't take long. Less than a week after House Republicans sought to shed their negative image by opening the way to a compromise on immigration legislation, they reversed course, declaring there was no way any bill could pass this year.

"There's widespread doubt about whether this administration can be trusted to enforce our laws," House Speaker John Boehner said. "And it's going to be difficult to move any immigration legislation until that changes."

Their decision means the GOP will have difficulty improving its negative standing with Hispanics before the 2016 election.

GOP lawmakers cited proposed border control provisions, President Barack Obama's changes with executive orders during the glitch-filled rollout of the Affordable Care Act and a variety of other measures.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who drew sharp conservative criticism for backing the bipartisan immigration bill that passed the Senate, said the IRS scandal, the Benghazi controversy and the health care law were "evidence the government, this administration, unilaterally decides which part of the law to enforce and not enforce."

A relative newcomer, Rubio seems not to know past presidents have done similar things. George W. Bush often issued signing statements noting which part of a law he would enforce, and others issued more executive orders than Obama.

But the real reason is the continuing GOP split on the extent to which an immigration bill would provide legal status for the 11 million immigrants here illegally. Party leaders refuse to work with the Democratic minority to craft a compromise bill that could pass the House, insisting on a measure backed by "the

See GOP on Next Page



Sharing our pain, anger and honesty

Nothing touches the psychological third rail as saying that "addicts are selfish." Since early last Friday morning, when my column on Philip Seymour Hoffman first appeared online, I've been receiving emails from all over the country with various levels of outrage, self-righteousness and, most surprisingly, gratitude.

I expected the comments like "I want to bitch slap you" from the woman in Florida who said that her son had just died of a heroin overdose. The supercilious tsk-tsking from those in what I call the industrial-addiction complex was hardly surprising, either. They took me to task for my ignorance, including the self-described therapist who told me that she understood that I had the right to my opinion but that it was dangerous to express that opinion. It's as if calling Hoffman "selfish" would burden recovering addicts with unhealthy guilt. Personally, I think it is the lack of guilt that lies at the root of the injuries we inflict on others, if not ourselves.

But what really struck me with more force than the bolt that hit Saul on his way to Damascus was the volume of readers who agreed with me that Hoffman was selfish in failing to consider how his actions would affect his babies.

There, I said it again and will continue to say it until the last co-dependent parent writes to call me a jackass because his daughter just got out of rehab and I apparently don't know what the hell I'm talking about.

But I do, you see. I have never made a secret of the fact that my family has been touched by addiction, several generations' worth. Years ago, in a less generous age, it was called being a "lush" or a "dope fiend" or any other of the words we are now taught to avoid out of sympathy and good manners.

But it doesn't change the fundamental nature of the beast to wrap it up in shiny paper and place it alongside leukemia and cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy and say, "Look, it's a disease just like all the others," and that the addict is no less diseased than one of Jerry's Kids.

I disagree.

So, I was amazed to find out, do hundreds of others, all of whom wrote to tell me that they were surprised that I had the balls to speak truth to political correctness.

More than balls, it's just a deep-seated anger that comes from being forced to watch relative after friend after acquaintance destroy themselves and their families because they decided to stick that needle in their arm, or take that first hit of coke or, if they had the money of Hoffman, buy thousands of dollars' worth of heroin.

I have been schooled this week in the vocabulary of addiction. I have been told that the addict is out of control, that there are synapses in the brain that react to chemicals, that there are compulsions

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.



and obsessions that don't respond to reason and can't be halted by normal stimuli. The homegrown therapists and those who make a habit of attending Al Anon or reading self-help books were generous with their time, and their profanity.

But the great joy in this experiment was hearing from the family members who thanked me for validating their suffering, for pointing out that while an addict might very well be incapable of abandoning that road to destruction, the people who love him are justified in saying, "Enough, I'm finished, you have cut out my heart."

People like Sally, who said, "I am a survivor of breast cancer and lost both my parents to cancer—you said exactly what I think."

Like Connie, who said "I am sick of all the levels of sainthood Philip Seymour Hoffman has attained just by killing himself."

Like Nathaniel, who admitted his addiction and said, "It's important to me not only to live for myself but for my family as well; when I lose sight of my purpose then I am on my way to my destruction."

People like Jim, who said "What Hoffman did was very selfish and I think that calling it what it is is the right thing to do—you can't just sugarcoat everything bad about society."

There were more, several hundreds more. And the emails are still pouring in.

It amazes me that there is this untapped well of pain out there, forced by a society of fabricated tolerance to remain hidden at the risk of being called vicious cruelty.

I have been conditioned to believe that my own strain of Spartan intolerance is unique, or shared only by those who have—as one writer said—hate in our hearts.

But voices from Indiana, Alaska, Miami, New York, San Diego, Iowa, Texas and Pennsylvania convince me that it's not.

There is love, yes, and support and a true desire to see the addict move on from his death valley into the light.

But there is also a willingness to say "enough!" and a refusal to be shamed into silence.

Hoffman's children deserve to be seen. Survivors deserve to be heard.

This is my thank you note to the ones who reached out.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tanu` Natibun Marianas

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Esta impachu-yu` humuñgog na ti ligat i Attikulu Dose. Ennau siha na opiñion gine man-otdinariu na tautau-ta yan guaha lokue` tautau hiyuñg chumalelegua` sekus niha. Kulan mohon man-muron i tautau tanu` ya ti kapas man-hassu mauleg yan antau gi asuntoña.

Yangin sustansiau dañosu i Attikulu Dose pot malimitte gi natibu dumueñon tanu`, ke ya hafa na Amerika ha sede i Indian gumu` ot tano` niha? Ti mapot talie` na haf` mauleg para i Indian debi lokue` u mauleg para hita. Haf` mohon?

Dispues, chage fan mamahan tanu` maseha manu tat kumu Filipinas `sino Japon kau un` mabende? Ensegidas manotisia hau na i tanu` para i tautau niha ha` solu. Ya haf` umestototba i mañgekuentos na para umasede otu gumaitanu` guine?

Kulan tinahoñg nu este na insuttu: Kontodu i Delegadun Marianas as Kilili ha petsisige para umana` fan sudadanu 14-mit na tautau hiyuñg `nai ensegidas hana` atlibes direchon natibu gumubietnan maisague`. Mauleg este na propositu para hita? Haf` motibu na uma`atog si pindehu Kili` gi un` sustansiau na ginagauña kontra tautauta?

Gi fina` lancheria

Gi un` lemmen tautau, malofanyu` gi fina` lancheria entalu` As Perdidu yan As Lito. Ha tutuhon milalag halom i hulie` siha na man-

GOP

From Page 10

majority of the majority.”

According to several analysts, opinion in most Republican-held House districts opposes legal status for illegal immigrants, making any GOP backer vulnerable to a primary challenge. That would likely mean that the House would stay Republican but with a stronger tea party influence threatening Boehner’s speakership.

Boehner talked of acting in 2015, but by then candidates in the GOP presidential race will be vying to take the strongest anti-immigrant positions. And Republicans rejected a proposal by a top Senate Democrat, Sen. Charles Schumer, for a law that would take effect after Obama leaves office.

Republicans don’t want to give Obama a legislative victory. And Obama made passage of comprehensive immigration reform with some form of legal status, if not citizenship, one of his top second term goals.

The GOP stance is especially ironic, since Hispanic groups have sharply criticized the Obama administration for its zeal in deporting more than 2 million illegal immigrants.

But by refusing to consider immigration legislation, the House GOP could spur Obama to use his executive authority unilaterally to reduce deportations of illegal immigrants or expand the number who could stay permanently in the United States. That’s what he did in 2012 when he gave permanent status to the so-called DREAMers, young Hispanics brought here illegally by their parents who became either military veterans, high school graduates or the equivalent.

Behind this jockeying is the realization by both parties that the nation’s burgeoning Hispanic population could determine their political future. After all, the number of U.S. Hispanics will likely triple by 2040, spurring a big increase in their clout from their 10 percent of voters in 2012.

In a sense, California and Texas are the cutting edge of that change. In California, the GOP is still suffering from Gov. Pete Wilson’s support for a 1994 referendum denying health and education benefits to illegal immigrants.

In Texas, Republicans risk similar damage from a voter identification law that will keep thousands of Hispanics from voting, redistricting plans that reduce Hispanic legislative clout and repeal of in-state college tuition for illegal immigrants.

So it was hardly surprising that the hint of a more positive national GOP attitude toward Hispanics was just too good to be true.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.

amku` guihe na lugat antes. Man-antau finu` pinasensia gi usun palabra, tat kumu i mañge` na kinembidan amku` para fina` mirienda `sino sena.

Man-animu gi halom hatdin yan inasisten pinegsai siha gi oriyen lanchu. Gi oran `las kuattro gi talo`ane, esta si Nan Lia ha tutuhon mama` sena. Gaige si Ta Iku munana` chochu ga`ta tat kumu babue, manog yan paluman mansu.

Antes de bai` kaikaiyu`, hanae`yu` i biha un` hitiñg aga` tanduke yan pinada`ña titiyas fresku na mai`es. Ha ayu`usyu` antes de bai` hanau. Gi karerahu tatte giya hame sige hu hassu i animon dos amku` yan mañge` dinaña gi oran sena yan famagun niha.

Mampos na`magof mattu gi un` lanchu `nai motmut i dos amku` minagof. Un` lie` benefisiun bendision minesñgon yan inaguaiya pareho ha` halom katma yan pagyu. Manaigue esta ayu siha na man-amku` lau chetton gi hinasoghu i antau na finu` pinasensia yan grasiosiu yan magof na chaleg niha antes.

Gi dikiki` na isla

Gi 1974, mattuyu` Rongelap, Utirik yan Bikini hu akompañia i grupon Atomic Energy Commission gi marisetan tautau este siha na islas kada sakan. Era, man-matatitiye haf` pinadesen niniha dispues de mayute` Atomic Bomb gi tanu` niha gi 1945.

Gi halom gualafon, mata`chuñgyu` gi naftan niha manayuyot mientras sige kumululog hinasoghu haf` na mayute` ayu na bomb giya Bikini. Mattu gi metgot na bala hombre kontodu direksion mañglu` tinilaika halom enteru Micronesia. Iya Rongelap, Utirik yan otu siha na islas `nai poduñg i petbus atomic bomb.

Pot bente sais (26) años na tiempo ti mapacha guihan niha deste

chechop tasi huyuñg esta i rubentason. Ti man-lie`yu` man-paire na guihan sanhalom ke haf` gaige gi dos isla. Gi dinaña` fina` sena yan i tautau siha `nai hu chage paire na tamales niyog.

Mampos tristeyu` ni man-macho`guen niha. Hu tuñgu` na megai para u fan matai kanset thyroid. Sinparat tinayuyothu para i los prohimos ni man-ma-usa ni Amerikanu para umalie` dispues haf` para umasusede ginen binenon potbus atomic bomb. Esta pa`gu ha estrarañayu` `an hu hassu che`chu` Amerikanu kontra ayu na grupon tautau. Tailaye!

■ ■ ■

Magahet na sueno i pueñge esta i finatton chatagmag gi dikiki` na isla `nai taya kosas modetno. Gima` hagon niyog fanliheñg niha. Puru familia man-gaige guihe na islas. Gi todú kinalamten, man-gaige todus para u fan a`ayuda. Sumen namagof na relasion gi entalo` todus.

■ ■ ■

Manpeska, mana` gasgas, matala` gi sagan fanala`an `sino maha`me gi hilu` guafe. Paire na tininu yan katdun niyog ni maplanta para sena. I fresko na kineni` tiau yan manineñg makelaguen. Man-daña gi fina` grasiosiu na chaleg estake oran deskansu. Silensiu i dikiki` na soñgsoñg esta i finatton chatagmag.

Guaha maprekura tinanom choda, mendioka, yan sune gi hatdin familia. Kontodu mana` chochun pinegsai monhayan gi taftaf oga`an. Tinatitiye ni otu siha planon yan che`chu` komunida. Dispues de monhayan man-mariseta, inna` guaha fina` sena ni dinirihe ni ma`gas niha. Ai sabe dios korasonhu `nai sumeha batkon mame para tatte Kwajelein.

I dikiki` kanai niha uttimu hu lie` gi kanton tasi `nai sige ham huyuñg. Bien bendision para siha.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A demonstration of NMDs consumer power

Editor's Note: Due to its length, this letter is being published in three parts.

Someone showed me editorials published by *Marianas Variety* implying that the passionate intent of our Northern Marianas Descent Corp. members on issues dearly important to our traditional, cultural and political survival are purely a showcase of Trust Territory mentality. Because I do not buy and read *Marianas Variety* as I used to, I had to go back and review previously published editorials and sure enough Zaldy Dandan was highly critical of NMDC members for their steadfast refusal to support Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan’s unilateral attempt to fast track the granting of adjusted immigration status and pathway to citizenship for more than 14,000 foreign aliens residing in the Commonwealth.

No amount of prejudicial and misrepresentative editorials, name-calling or obsessive irrelevant political labeling will distract or discourage NMD members in focusing on our mission, and asserting our collective rights to live in our homeland with dignity. Slanted editorials coming out of Zaldy Dandan and other political commentators grossly mischaracterize the real reasons behind NMD’s refusal to rally behind any immigration legislation, giving adjusted status and citizenship to thousands of foreign aliens in the Commonwealth. The friends of granting adjusted immigration status and citizenship to thousands of foreign aliens are desperately trying to portray and make it look like members of the NMDC are just a bunch of morons, because some are former public service holders previously connected to different political associations. Obviously this is Zaldy at his usual best, “prejudiced political commentary.” While entertainingly amusing to some of his own kind of readers, NMDs never take him as a credible editor because he has never proven his objectivity and never earned our trust. As someone who is paid to write, and he must write, for a commercial newspaper that depends on consumers for its survival, he is free to continue his political parody about NMDs `til his face is blue. However, NMDs have special powers of their own that have never been effectively used before in the economic history of the CNMI. We are *consumers* as well, and we will use this power strategically and discriminately against any and all businesses or organizations hostile to our interests and prejudicially dismissive of our rights, particularly the biased *Marianas Variety*. NMDC members have a clear and targeted plan to execute this power. Nobody takes NMDs seriously, not the newspaper editors, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, political pundits and commentators, including our political leaders, because of our inclination to accept things as they usually are. Businesses and political leaders have long exploited our complacent tendency.

Well, 5,000-plus NMD petitioners finally realize that their trust has long been taken advantage of for someone else’s interest. We are no longer going to be made a mockery of by deceitful, calculat-

ed, and conniving businesses, as well as any political leader who is insensitive and dismissive of our cause and movement. We will not take things as usual henceforth. Chamorros and Carolinians will not allow themselves to be treated as cadavers for businesses and public officials’ laboratory experiments or guinea pigs. We will slowly rid these islands of unscrupulous businesses and political chameleons. *Marianas Variety* editor Zaldy Dandan has a knack for editorializing personality and he is darn good at it because he comes from a place that glamorizes celebrities (personalities) and the world of “make-believe.” NMDs, however, take exception to false and inaccurate depiction of our cause and motivation, in our outright refusal to granting adjusted immigration status and pathway to citizenships for foreign aliens in the Commonwealth. For someone who has never lived our life experiences as Chamorro and Carolinian, does not understand our emotional and psychological struggles through years of colonial subjugations, one who has not earned our trust to “politicize” our position in protecting cultural rights and traditional values, to deliberately try to cast aspersions on our motive and movement is totally reprehensible.

Coming from the most corrupt country in Asia and a nation riddled with public contempt as a way of life, to preach to us about fiduciary duty, ethics, righteousness and other human virtues is just arrogantly insulting, and may even be “tickled funny.” A “journalist” with questionable objectivity and little faith in “facts” who uses journalism’s protected right to malign well-meaning undertaking is not worthy of our acknowledgement. Besides, Zaldy Dandan has absolutely nothing to contribute to NMDC’s cultural and traditional pursuit for respect. If Zaldy Dandan wants to engage in a war of words and ideas NMDC will take him on. Though Zaldy Dandan has the overwhelming advantage through the shield of *Marianas Variety* versus NMDC as passionate believers of traditional and cultural rights without similar means, definitely we will engage. With no free access to the same platform, we will take him on through a different and effective means—shut down *Marianas Variety* through patronage boycott. We will use *Marianas Variety* as a demonstration of NMDs consumer power. Five thousand and growing Chamorro and Carolinian petitioners cannot be influenced by a grossly subjective newspaper. I will initiate relentless pursuit for another petition drive against your advertisers through Chamorro and Carolinian consumer efforts. Political leaders and business operators, be on the lookout for the emergence of a small group of Chamorro and Carolinian people harnessing their consumer power and political vote power together. The CNMI will slowly witness the explosive and lethal power of these two forces.






Daniel O. Quitugua

*Acting president, NMDC
Kannat Tabla, Saipan*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Yap	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

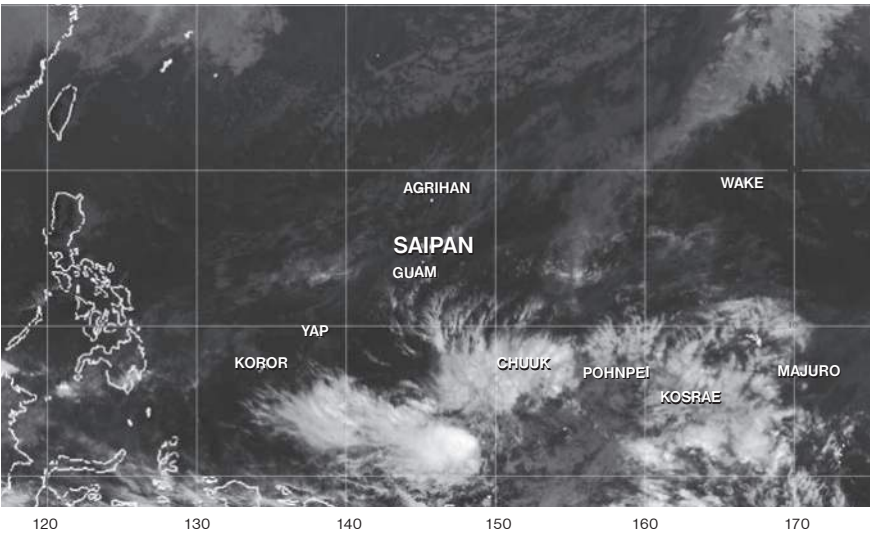
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 69
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 23
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 55
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 50
London	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 40
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 64
New York	Sunny	▲ 32 ▼ 24
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 35
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Pusan	Windy	▲ 45 ▼ 35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 55
Salem	Rain	▲ 51 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 49
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 28
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 32
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 36 ▼ 31

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
9:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
4:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
9:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near equatorial-trough extends from EQ132E through a circulation centered south of Chuuk near 3N151E to 3N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with these features can be found south of Yap between the equator and 5N from 136E to 149E over Chuuk and Pohnpei between 5N and 9N from 149E to 160E and over Kosrae between 2N and 8N from 160E to 169E. A cold front stretches from east of Minami Tori Shima near 25N162E to 20N155E to beyond 130E and 17N. Patchy clouds and showers are present northwest of the front to beyond 25N. A shear line stretches from near 18N150E through the Marianas Islands at 15N145E to near Ulithi near 10N140E. Patchy clouds and showers are present along and up to 220 miles northwest of the shear line. A surface trough extends north of Pohnpei from 11N156E to 14N155E to 18N158E. Patchy clouds and showers can be found 60 miles either side of the trough axis. A second surface trough east of Majuro stretches from 2N175E to beyond 180 at 6N. Scattered showers can be found east of the Marshall Islands or 250 miles east and west of the trough axis.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:58 PM	8:26 AM
Wednesday	9:49 PM	9:06 AM
Thursday	10:41 PM	9:49 AM
Friday	11:36 PM	10:34 AM
Saturday		11:23 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 170	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Japan economy grows lackluster 1 pct in Oct-Dec

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy expanded at a slower-than-expected 1 percent annualized rate in the last quarter of 2013, raising pressure on the central bank to step up already massive stimulus to sustain the recovery.

The data released Monday showed a 0.3 percent expansion for the world's third largest economy from the previous quarter, adjusted for inflation. That was less than half of some forecasts despite a boom in housing construction and stronger public and private spending.

Slower growth in China and other major markets has taken a toll on exports, crimping growth at a critical time for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's recovery program.

"The big disappointment was net exports, which shaved off 0.5 percentage points from headline growth," Capital Economics said in a commentary Monday.

The preliminary data show the economy grew an estimated 1.6 percent in 2013, the Cabinet Office reported. That was only slightly stronger than the 1.4 percent expansion in 2012.

It was the fourth straight quarter of expansion since the economy emerged from recession in late 2012, and gained momentum on a combination of strong government spending and aggressive monetary easing.

The Bank of Japan's monthly monetary policy meeting begins Monday. Ahead of the release of the latest data, the central bank had been expected to keep mon-



People walk by a clothing store with a winter sale advertisement in Tokyo Monday, Feb. 17, 2014. Japan's economy grew at a slower-than-forecast 1 percent annualized rate in the last quarter of 2013, clouding the outlook for the recovery ahead of a sales tax hike in April.

etary policy unchanged, while promising more stimulus if necessary to cushion the blow to consumer and corporate demand from a 3 percent sales tax hike that takes effect April 1.

Economists expect the tax hike to cause the economy to contract in April-June after expanding in this quarter, as consumers move up purchases to beat the tax hike and then tighten their belts afterward to compensate for higher costs.

A Kyodo news service telephone survey released Monday showed 65 of those asked intend

to cut spending after the tax hike.

Japan's consumer price index rose 0.4 percent in 2013, the first increase in five years, but after a strong start growth slowed later in the year as corporate investment remained sluggish and exports were sapped by lackluster growth in emerging economies.

The weakening of the yen that accompanied monetary easing increased demand for imports faster than it may have helped exports, pushing Japan's trade balance into the red.

Other recent data have been mixed.

Corporate demand for bank loans has risen moderately, climbing 2.1 percent increase in 2013 from the year before, compared an average annual decline of 1.5 percent in 2000-2012.

But so far, companies appear to be focusing much of their investment on overseas markets.

Machinery orders, a major trend setter for corporate spending, fell 3.1 percent month-on-month in December, with core private sector orders dropping 15.2 percent, the biggest plunge since the government began its current data series in 2005.

John Kerry mocks those who deny climate change

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday called climate change perhaps the world's "most fearsome" destructive weapon and mocked those who deny its existence or question its causes, comparing them to people who insist the Earth is flat.

In a speech to Indonesian students, civic leaders and government officials, Kerry tore into climate change skeptics. He accused them of using shoddy science and scientists to delay steps needed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases at the risk of imperiling the planet.

A day earlier, the U.S. and China announced an agreement to cooperate more closely on combating climate change. American officials hope that will help encourage others, including developing countries like Indonesia and India, to follow suit.

China and the United States are the biggest sources of emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases that cause the atmosphere to trap solar heat and alter the climate. Scientists say such changes are leading to drought, wildfires, rising sea levels, melting polar ice, plant and animal extinctions and other extreme conditions.

Also in the Jakarta speech, Ker-

ry said everyone and every country must take responsibility for the problem and act immediately.

"We simply don't have time to let a few loud interest groups hijack the climate conversation," he said, referring to what he called "big companies" that "don't want to change and spend a lot of money" to act to reduce the risks.

Kerry later singled out major oil and coal concerns as the primary offenders.

"We should not allow a tiny



Kerry

minority of shoddy scientists and science and extreme ideologues to compete with scientific facts," Kerry told the audience at a U.S. Embassy-run American Center in a shopping mall.

"Nor should we allow any room for those who think that the costs associated with doing the right thing outweigh the benefits."

"The science is unequivocal, and those who refuse to believe it are simply burying their heads in the sand," Kerry said. "We don't have time for a meeting anywhere

of the Flat Earth Society."

Kerry said the cost of inaction will far outweigh the significant expense of reducing greenhouse gas emissions that trap solar heat in the atmosphere and contribute to the Earth's rising temperatures.

He outlined a litany of recent weather disasters, particularly flooding and typhoons in Asia, and their impact on commerce, agriculture, fishing and daily living conditions for billions of people.

"This city, this country, this region, is really on the front lines of climate change," Kerry said. "It's not an exaggeration to say that your entire way of life here is at risk."

Some sponsors compose Olympians' tweets

SOCHI, Russia (AP)—Between photos and insights about their Olympic experience, some Olympians are turning over their social media accounts to sponsors, agreeing to quotas of postings on Twitter and Facebook and letting other people send commercial messages in their name.

The agents for US figure skaters Ashley Wagner and Gracie Gold both say sponsors draft some of their tweets, plugging their brands. "This is the first Olympics where I actually have a social media calen-

dar, where an athlete has to tweet or mention something on a given day," Gold's agent, Yuki Saegusa, said in an interview.

"We get a list of tweets or social media things that need to be posted and then we approve them for her," said Saegusa, senior vice president for Olympic clients at sports management giant IMG.

Although they "encourage" Gold to post the pre-packaged commercial tweets to her 65,000 followers herself, sometimes others do it for her.

"We want it to be from her point of view, and from her mouth and from her fingers. So we try to get her to do them—mostly," Saegusa said. "We're in a very new age now where a lot of advertising, or PR, or promotions, is social media. That's becoming a very important aspect of marketing."

Wagner's IMG agent, David Baden, said athletes' sponsorship deals are now starting to specify "how many tweets, how many Facebook mentions and even Instagram" photos they must post.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Relationships key to management's overhaul attempt

QUESTION: Several months ago, I was hired to turn around a department which was not meeting expectations. Although the staff seemed to agree that change was needed, they apparently don't like having an outsider in charge. Many old-school employees are resisting new ideas, and even my direct reports have begun to act disrespectful.

While my boss agrees with the plans for transforming operations, he dislikes confrontation and is unwilling to help me win people over if it means having firm conversations. I am apparently expected to get everyone to embrace these changes on my own. Do I have any hope of succeeding?

ANSWER: Like many managers engaged in organizational re-engineering, you have now learned that revising plans, policies, and structures is often the easy part. The more difficult assignment is getting existing employees to view things differently and modify established habits.

Wise leaders understand that ordering people to accept change seldom works. While "firm conversations" may be required with those who are recalcitrant, using an authoritarian approach too quickly will only increase resistance. Given the reaction you describe, this may be the source of your problem with the staff.

At this point, you are undoubtedly feeling great pressure to produce results. Under those circumstances, newly hired managers frequently make the mistake of focusing solely on tasks and overlooking the need to build relationships. As a result, employees begin to view them as aloof and disruptive instead of informed and helpful.

Having established the new direction, you must now guide employees through the process of adapting. Start by doing less talking and more listening, especially with your direct reports. Avoid gripe sessions by asking for input on specific implementation strategies. You may be surprised by how much you learn about potential roadblocks and resource gaps.

To demonstrate your boss's support for the plan, invite him to join you in these discussion sessions. While he may not be much help with tough talks, he could be quite useful in convincing people of the need for a shift in strategy.

Q: My co-worker was allowed to take paid time off after using up all her leave days. This seems very unfair, since I try to manage my time well and only use leave when necessary. I expressed my opinion to management, but nothing happened. I would appreciate some advice on how to get over this, because I'm finding it hard to accept.

A: When inequities occur, employees have three choices: take action to fix the problem, acknowledge that life isn't always fair, or go nuts obsessing about it. By raising the issue with management, you have exhausted option one. Now you appear to be stuck on option three, but for your own peace of mind, you really need to let this go.

To reduce your resentment, remind yourself that we often have no idea what's happening in our coworkers' personal lives. This woman may very well have difficult circumstances which management can't discuss with you. If so, the apparent unfairness might actually represent a compassionate exception to the rules.

Nation

House Dems try to force votes on wage, immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats are determined to cast an election-year spotlight on Republican opposition to raising the minimum wage and overhauling immigration laws.

To try to accomplish that in the GOP-controlled House, Democrats are planning to rely on an infrequently used, rarely successful tactic known as a “discharge petition.”

It requires the minority party—in this case, Democrats, who are unable to dictate the House agenda—to persuade some two dozen Republicans to defy their leadership, join Democrats and force a vote on setting the federal minimum wage at \$10.10 an hour.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California said Democrats will push the wage issue when Congress returns from its break Feb. 24. Forcing a vote on a comprehensive overhaul of immigration laws could occur in a few months.

Democratic leaders argue that a majority of Americans favor both steps, which are priorities for President Barack Obama, and say the House GOP is the obstacle. Republicans say Democrats are embarking on an ap-



In this Dec. 12, 2013, file photo House Minority Leader, Democrat Nancy Pelosi of California, at the podium, is joined by Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chairman Rep. Ruben Hinojosa, D-Texas, to her left, as she calls for action on immigration reform on Capitol Hill in Washington with other lawmakers and activists.

proach that they know has little chance of success in an attempt to circumvent the will of the GOP-led House.

The odds are daunting for Democrats in what clearly is political maneuvering ahead of the elections this fall.

■ ■ ■

Q: What does a discharge petition do?

A: It allows the minority or opposition party to bypass the House speaker and get a vote.

First, 217 members—one more than half the House’s current membership of 432—have to sign a petition. A motion to

consider the wage issue would then be placed on the legislative calendar, but it can’t be acted on for at least seven days. Any lawmaker can then call it up but only on the second or fourth Monday of the month. The motion is debated and if the House passes it, then lawmakers would consider and vote on the bill.

Currently there are 232 Republicans, 200 Democrats and three vacancies in the House. All 200 Democrats would have to sign the petition, but Democrats would have a tough time getting 17 Republicans to join them.

Signing a discharge petition would be a breach of loyalty for Republicans, certain to draw the wrath of the caucus, and a rebuke of Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Republicans largely oppose any increase in the minimum wage. They say it’s an issue left to the states and that it could slow hiring in a struggling economy.

Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 House Democrat, acknowledged that Democrats are unlikely to sway Republicans. Yet he also provided a preview of one of his party’s arguments on this issue.

“I don’t think we’re ever con-

fident that we’re going to get 18 Republicans to sign a discharge petition, but we apparently have 30 or 40 that are known over here,” Hoyer said at a news conference this past week at the party’s retreat in Cambridge, Md. “Our expectation is if they want to make sure that working people have an incentive to work, they will pay them to do so a wage that does not leave them in poverty.”

■ ■ ■

Q: What about immigration? A number of House Republicans back a comprehensive approach. Would they sign a discharge petition?

A: Highly unlikely. Republicans still are unwilling to break ranks with the party and Boehner, despite the distinctly different political forces on the issue.

Immigration overhaul has the support of an unusual coalition that includes some traditional backers of the GOP. They include the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and business groups, religious organizations such as the U.S. Catholic Bishops, evangelicals and labor unions.

A few Republicans have expressed support for a comprehensive bill similar to the Senate-passed measure and have pleaded for the House to act this year. They worry about the political implications in their swing districts back home. Yet it would be a remarkable step for some of the more moderate lawmakers from California and Florida to abandon Boehner.

Boehner has come out with principles on immigration that call for legal status for some of the 11 million immigrants living in the country illegally and has expressed support for a piecemeal approach to the issue. Last week, however, the speaker all

but ruled out the House acting on legislation this year, blaming GOP distrust of Obama to enforce any new law.

On the notion of a discharge petition, Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said, “This scheme has zero chance of success. A clear majority in the House understands that the massive Senate-passed bill is deeply flawed.”

Sen. Chuck Schumer, a major player on the bipartisan Senate measure, recently pushed the idea of a discharge petition, but the New York Democrat is unlikely to sway the nearly two dozen House Republicans necessary to sign on.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., made clear how Democrats will frame the issue for the Republicans who want immigration overhaul.

“Talk is one thing; actually doing something is another. And I’m sure they’ll have a chance between now and November to let their constituents know whether they’re serious on immigration reform, the comprehensive one, or not,” Van Hollen said.

■ ■ ■

Q: A discharge petition sounds like a tough sell. Has it worked recently?

A: The discharge petition worked in 1986, forcing a vote on a gun rights bill, and in 2002, ensuring a vote on campaign finance legislation.

The difficulty for a discharge petition in the current political climate was never more evident than last fall in the midst of the 16-day partial government shutdown. Even though several Republicans said they wanted to vote on a spending bill with no strings attached, they rejected the idea that they would join forces with the Democrats.

‘Killer heroin’ causing fatal overdoses in East

POINT PLEASANT, N.J. (AP)—On an icy night last month, a man entered a grocery store here, walked past the displays of cake mix and paper towels, and went into the bathroom, where he injected himself with heroin.

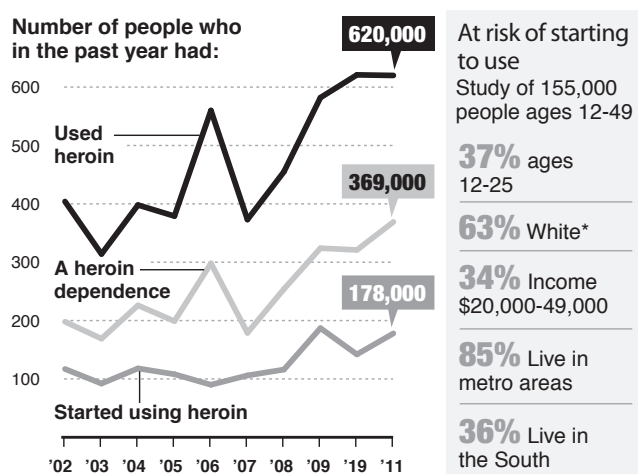
Hours later, the man was found dead in the bathroom with a needle still in his arm, authorities said. They believe the man was one of more than 80 across the country who have died in recent weeks after injecting heroin laced with fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opiate.

As the number of people who use, and fatally overdose on, heroin has skyrocketed in recent years, authorities are seeing the return of an alarming development: heroin that, often unbeknownst to the user, is spiked with fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a narcotic that is typically administered to people in chronic pain, including end-stage cancer patients. It is also

Heroin use in the U.S.

Heroin use is growing as the addictive drug becomes cheaper and easier to buy all over the country. A look at the trend in use among those ages 12-49, in thousands:



Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2014 MCT

used as an anesthetic. It is considered 80 times more powerful than morphine and can kill by

inhibiting breathing.

“The dealers push this as being a super high, which it is, but

it’s also lethal,” said Ellen Unterwald, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Research at the Temple University School of Medicine. Users typically don’t know how much fentanyl is mixed in, and she said just a small amount can be fatal because the drug is so potent.

“A very small amount can exert a very significant effect,” said Eric Strain, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and Research at Johns Hopkins University.

In Maryland, at least 37 people have died from the combined drugs, according to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and in western Pennsylvania, authorities said they caused 22 deaths in recent weeks. In Rhode Island, 25 people have died from the laced heroin, and in Vermont state police have warned that pure fentanyl is being sold as heroin.

Verdict in Florida again raises self-defense issue

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A verdict in the city of Jacksonville is again raising the issue of self-defense and race in Florida, just seven months after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the shooting of a black teenager, Trayvon Martin.

Michael Dunn, a white 47-year-old software developer, could face 60 years in prison following his conviction Saturday on multiple counts of

attempted murder for shooting into a carful of teenagers outside a Jacksonville convenience store in 2012. Jordan Davis, a black 17-year-old, was killed in the shooting, but the jury couldn’t reach a verdict on the first-degree murder charge against Dunn. A mistrial was declared on that count.

The verdict is a far cry from one delivered in the Zimmerman case, when he was acquitted

in July in the shooting death of 17-year-old Martin in Sanford, about 125 miles south of Jacksonville.

Like Zimmerman, Dunn said he felt his life was in danger when he fired the shots. But the verdict suggested the jury struggled to see it that way.

Following an argument over loud music coming from the car that Davis was in, Dunn said he shot at the car with his 9 mm

handgun—he said he was afraid and thought he saw a shotgun in the car.

Legal experts say it’s likely that at least one member of the jury believed Dunn’s story—about being scared, pulling a gun in self-defense and firing the first few shots, which killed Davis. After more than 30 hours of deliberations over four days, the jury couldn’t agree on the first-degree murder charge.

ACROSS THE NATION

3.2 magnitude aftershock felt from SC earthquake

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Officials are reporting an aftershock from the earthquake that shook a large part of South Carolina and Georgia on Friday. The U.S. Geological Survey’s website reported a 3.2 magnitude earthquake at 3:23 p.m. Sunday in Edgefield County, just a few miles from the 4.1 magnitude quake on Friday. Sunday’s earthquake was only felt about 35 miles from its center, while Friday’s quake was reported more than 150 miles away. Inspectors checked bridges, nuclear plants and dams in the area, but no major damage was reported after Friday’s quake. Sunday’s aftershock was significantly smaller.

Chelsea Clinton says gay rights have made progress

Former first daughter Chelsea Clinton said Sunday that the gay-rights cause made “incredible progress” on political and legal fronts in 2013, but progress should not be mistaken for success. Clinton called lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues “the unfinished business of the 21st century” in an address at a national conference in Las Vegas where actress Ellen Page came out as gay days earlier in an emotional speech that’s stirred a social media outpouring. Clinton urged a crowd of 600 professionals who work with children to become more sensitive to the needs of LGBT youth, saying the deck is stacked against them because of bullying, rejection and other harassment. (AP)

Asia

South Korean tourists killed in Sinai bombing

CAIRO (AP)—An explosion tore through a bus filled with South Korean sightseers in the Sinai Peninsula on Sunday, killing at least four people and raising fears that Islamic militants have renewed a bloody campaign to wreck Egypt's tourism industry.

The bombing near the tip of the Red Sea's Gulf of Aqaba was the first attack against tourists in Sinai in nearly a decade.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the blast bore the hallmarks of attacks blamed on the al-Qaida-linked militant groups that have been battling government forces in Sinai's restive north for years.

At least three South Korean tourists were killed and 12 seriously wounded, according to Egyptian security officials. The Egyptian bus driver was also among the dead, the officials said.

"I am deeply saddened by the incident," Tourism Minister Hesham Zazou told state TV. The Egyptian presidency called the attack a "despicable act of cowardice" and vowed to bring the culprits to justice.

Egypt's vital tourism sector, which normally accounts for about 11 percent of the economy and 20 percent of all foreign currency revenue, has been badly hit by the deadly turmoil that has roiled the country since the 2011 revolt that overthrew ruler Hosni Mubarak.



In this photo released by South Sinai governor office, Egyptian tourism minister Hesham Zazou, left, and South Korean ambassador in Cairo, center, visit a Korean tourist who was injured during an explosion that targeted a tourist bus, as he received medical treatment in Sharm El-Sheik hospital, in Egypt, late Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014.

Sunday's blast came as signs of a slow recovery in the industry were emerging, especially at Red Sea resorts in Sinai like Sharm el-Sheik.

"The sad consequence for Egypt is that this takes the tourism industry and devastates it for years into the future," said

Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Egyptian security officials said they believe the blast was caused by either a car bomb or a roadside bomb that was detonated by remote control.

Rescue workers found the remains of four and perhaps five people, according to Khaled Abu Hashem, the head of ambulance services in southern Sinai.

In Seoul, the foreign ministry said in a text message that 31 passengers from a church in Jincheon were being led by a South

Korean tour guide. Two of its citizens were killed and nine wounded, the ministry added.

The discrepancy in the death toll could not immediately be reconciled.

The attack stoked fears that a deadly campaign against tourists similar to one waged in the 1990s

by extremists may have resumed. In 1997, gunmen opened fire at the Temple of Hatshepsut in the city of Luxor, killing 58 tourists and four Egyptians.

Sunday's bombing was the first attack against tourists in Sinai's southern region since a spasm of bloodshed in 2004-06 that killed about 120 people. That included a bombing at a luxury hotel in Taba in 2004 that left 34 people dead, 11 of them Israelis.

The bus in Sunday's attack had set out on a journey from Cairo and was about to enter Israel from the border town of Taba, officials said. Security officials said it arrived at Taba from the ancient Greek Orthodox monastery of St. Catherine's in Sinai.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Meanwhile on Sunday, lawyers for deposed Islamist President Mohammed Morsi and his co-defendants walked out of court to protest the soundproof glass cage in which the accused are held during proceedings.

It was the first hearing in a case in which Morsi and 35 others are charged with conspiring with foreign groups and undermining national security.

The judge ordered Egypt's lawyers union to appoint 10 members to represent the defendants. The trial was adjourned until Feb. 23.

ASIA BRIEFS

Rescuers find wreckage of plane in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Rescuers in Nepal have found the wreckage of a passenger plane that went missing in western mountains. There is no word yet about the 18 people aboard. Nepal Airlines official Ram Hari Sharma says a rescue helicopter was able to spot the wreckage on Monday on the side of a mountain near Machinelek and rescuers on foot are now trying to reach the area. The plane operated by the state-run airline lost contact with the ground control on Sunday while flying in rain and fog.

Snow in Japan causes deaths, disrupts traffic

TOKYO (AP)—The second heavy snowfall in a week to hit Japan killed up to a dozen people and injured hundreds over the weekend, while paralyzing traffic and causing power outages. In Yamanashi, in central Japan, a record 114 centimeters (45 inches) of snow fell. About 27 centimeters (10 inches) of snow was enough to paralyze Tokyo, which usually sees only a few light dustings each winter. The Japan Meteorological Agency said Sunday that the low pressure system was traveling north, dumping more snow after passing the Tokyo region.

Vietnam deploys dancers to foil protests

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Anti-China protesters hoping to lay wreaths at a famous statue in the Vietnamese capital on Sunday were obstructed by an unusual sight of ballroom dancers and an energetic aerobics class held to a thumping sound system. The demonstrators suspect the government deployed the dancers as a way to stop them from getting close to the statue and make their speeches inaudible. The few who tried to get close to the statue of Ly Thai To, the founder of Hanoi and a nationalist icon, were shooed away. The protesters were marking the 35th anniversary of a bloody border war between China and Vietnam, where anger over Beijing's increasingly assertive territorial claims on islands in the South China Sea that Hanoi insists belong to it is already running high.

Bomb derails train in southwest Pakistan, kills 8

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb placed by an ethnic separatist group derailed a train in southwest Pakistan on Sunday, killing eight people, police and the militants said.

Three of the dead were children and another 20 people were wounded by the blast in Kashmir district, which caused several train cars to run off the track, said police official Mohammad Azeem. Kashmir is in Sindh province but adjoins insurgency-hit Baluchistan. One of several ethnic Baluch separatist groups operating in the resource-rich

province, the Baluch Republican Army, claimed responsibility. Al-Qaida-linked militants also have a presence there.

The group's spokesman, Sarbaz Baluch, said in a phone call to The Associated Press from an undisclosed location that the attack was a reaction to what he alleged were killings in Baluchistan's Dera Bugti region by Pakistani paramilitaries.

The group also blew up three gas pipelines last week, suspending supplies to millions of household for two days.

Local Pakistani TV channels

showed footage of several badly damaged train cars lying off the track. Pakistani Railways Minister Saad Rafiq said officials were working to reopen the track at earliest.

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed a policeman guarding a polio vaccination drive team in the outskirts of northwestern city of Peshawar. Police official Ibrahim Khan said another officer was wounded in the attack during the weekly anti-polio campaign in the Budhni area.

Khan said the two officers were patrolling a road leading

to the suburban neighborhood where anti-polio teams were vaccinating children.

Anti-polio teams or their guards have been frequently targeted in Pakistan by Islamic militants, who say the campaigns are a tool for spying and claim the vaccine makes boys sterile.

Pakistan is one of the few remaining countries where polio persists and most cases found in its northwest, where militants make it difficult to reach children for vaccination.

No one has claimed responsibility for this incident either.

Huge Filipino charity walk breaks Guinness records

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine Christian sect has broken two records for organizing the largest charity walk in an effort to raise funds for survivors of last year's Typhoon Haiyan, a Guinness World Records official said Sunday.

Guinness adjudicator Kirsty Bennett said 175,509 members of the Iglesia ni Cristo took part in Saturday's record-setting walk along a scenic Manila bayside boulevard. The previous record was set in Singapore in 2000 when 77,500 people walked to

promote healthy living.

Bennett told a news conference in Manila on Sunday that Iglesia ni Cristo members in 28 other countries also held similar walks over the weekend, with the number of participants reaching 519,221 worldwide—a record for the largest charity walk in multiple venues. The previous record was set in Canada, where 231,635 people took part in a charity walk at various sites in 2007.

"It is a huge achievement," Bennett said before presenting

a Guinness certificate to the Christian sect's leaders as the group's members applauded.

An Iglesia spokesman, Edwil Zabala, said his group organized the walk to raise funds to be used in constructing homes and providing livelihoods to thousands of homeless Typhoon Haiyan survivors still living in tents and makeshift homes more than three months after the disaster.

The typhoon, one of the strongest on record to hit land, tore across the central Philippines on

Nov. 8, leaving more than 6,200 people dead and nearly 1,800 missing.

The storm destroyed or damaged more than a million houses and displaced more than 4 million mostly poor villagers.

The charity walk aimed to urge Filipinos and foreign governments to continue helping Haiyan survivors.

"We're concerned that donor fatigue may set in," Zabala said. "If we abandon them now, many can't still stand back fully on their own."

World

Syria says US created 'negative climate' in Geneva

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's foreign minister accused the United States of trying to create a "negative climate" for dialogue at the second round of peace talks in Geneva, while Secretary of State John Kerry blamed "the Assad regime's obstruction" for making the tense talks even more difficult.

The comments by Walid al-Moallem on Sunday came a day after the meetings between Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and the opposition seeking his ouster ended without finding a way of breaking the impasse in the nearly three-year-old conflict.

Al-Moallem spoke to the state news service about the talks as the Syrian delegation was returning from Switzerland to Damascus. He said the U.S. tried to "create a very negative climate for dialogue in Geneva."

Kerry's statement late Sunday repeated the U.S. commitment to finding a political solution to the conflict, and he praised the opposition's "mature seriousness of purpose and willingness to discuss all aspects of the conflict."

In contrast, Kerry said, "while it stalled in Geneva, the regime intensified its barbaric assault on its civilian population with barrel bombs and starvation. It has even gone as far as to add some of the opposition delegates at Geneva to a terrorist list and seize their assets. This is reprehensible."

Syria's conflict started as largely peaceful protests against Assad in March 2011 but later degenerated into a civil war in



Syria's Foreign Minister and head of the Syrian government delegation Walid al-Moallem gestures during a press conference at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Friday, Jan. 31, 2014.

which more than 140,000 people have been killed, according to activists.

The U.N.'s human rights office said in January it has stopped updating the death toll from the war, confirming that it can no longer verify the sources of information that led to its last count of at least 100,000 in late July.

Millions have been driven out of their homes, seeking shelter in neighboring countries and in safer parts of their homeland.

Washington, its European and Persian Gulf allies are backing the opposition in Syria's con-

flict. Russia and Iran are supporting Assad's government.

U.N.-Arab League mediator Lakhdar Brahimi apologized to the Syrian people for failing to reach progress.

"I am very, very sorry, and I apologize to the Syrian people that their hopes which were very, very high that something will happen here," Brahimi said Sunday.

More than 5,792 people have reportedly been killed in Syria since the Geneva talks began on Jan. 22, activists said.

The talks' modest achievement has been a U.N.-brokered

truce in the central city of Homs that has allowed aid workers to deliver some food and medicine for hundreds trapped in the rebel-held areas. More than 1,000 people were also evacuated from the city, which has been under government blockade for more than a year.

On Sunday, an official with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent said its workers have entered the western Damascus suburb of Moadamiyah to deliver food for the first time in 15 months of government blockade.

Khaled Erksoussi, the head of operations with the Red Cres-

cent told The Associated Press that the agency was allowed to take 500 food parcels into the suburb. A truce has been in place in the area for two months, Erksoussi said, but Moadamiyah remains surrounded by army checkpoints and troops.

Erksoussi appealed for more aid to be allowed for at least 10,000 residents of the suburb that was attacked by chemical weapons in August.

The leader of Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, pledged to fight on alongside Assad's troops until Sunni Muslim extremists fighting with the rebels are defeated.

"We will remain where we should be, our policy hasn't changed," Nasrallah said in a televised speech to commemorate the death of three of the group's leaders, including top military commander Imad Mughniyeh who was killed in a Damascus car bombing in 2008.

Hezbollah fighters have been key to the Syrian army's success on the battlefield since June, when they helped Assad's forces dislodge rebels from the opposition stronghold of Qusair near the border with Lebanon.

Nasrallah said Hezbollah fighters have also been fighting in the Syrian capital. He acknowledged that some have fallen, but said it was a worthy sacrifice because the group is "gaining experience and strength in Syria."

"We will be victorious. It's only a matter of time," Nasrallah said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Macedonia explosion wounds 5 Roma children

SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP)—An explosion wounded five Roma children in a Macedonian town west of the capital Sunday and investigators were trying to establish what type of device caused the blast, police said. Two 14-year-old girls sustained serious limb and chest injuries from the explosion in Tetovo and were rushed to a hospital in Skopje. Hospital officials said they were in stable condition after surgery. Three other children were slightly injured and have been discharged from Tetovo's hospital. Tetovo, about 55 kilometers (35 miles) west of Skopje, is a town at the heart of Macedonia's Albanian minority.

Venezuelan opposition leader to turn himself in

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, the target of a Venezuelan police manhunt for allegedly inciting violence at anti-government protests that ended with three deaths, said Sunday that he will surrender himself after staging one more demonstration. In a video shot in an undisclosed location, Lopez said he didn't fear arrest but accused authorities of trying to violate his constitutional right to protest against President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government. He urged supporters to gather Tuesday in white shirts and march peacefully with him to the Interior Ministry, where he said he would deliver a petition demanding a full investigation of the government's role in the deaths. He said he would turn himself over to authorities Tuesday.

Ukrainian protesters end occupation of City Hall

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Anti-government demonstrators in Ukraine's capital ended their nearly three-month occupation of Kiev City Hall on Sunday as promised in exchange for the release of all 234 jailed protesters. But tensions remained high as hundreds stayed outside the building, vowing to retake it if the government failed to drop all charges against the protesters. Late that night, after a meeting with opposition leaders, Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka said the criminal cases would be closed Monday. Prospects for an easing of the standoff between the opposition and President Viktor Yanukovich, however, were still unclear.

Maduro expels 3 US officials

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Nicolas Maduro on Sunday ordered the expulsion of three U.S. Embassy officials after Washington came to the defense of an opposition hard-liner accused by Venezuela's leader of responsibility for bloodshed during anti-government protests.

Maduro didn't identify the consular officials but said intelligence collected over the past two months pointed to attempts by them to infiltrate Venezuelan universities, a hotbed of recent unrest, under the cover of doing visa outreach. He didn't provide additional details.

Triggering the expulsion was the Obama administration's siding with opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, who is being hunted by authorities as Maduro accuses him of leading a "fascist" plot to oust the socialist government.

Maduro said a State Department official, in a phone conversation with Venezuela's ambassador to the Washington-based Organization of American States, warned that arresting the 42-year-old former mayor

would bring serious negative consequences with international ramifications.

"These are unacceptable, insolent demands," Maduro said during a televised address Sunday night. "I don't take orders from anyone in the world."

There was no immediate reaction from the U.S. government, which has denied the accusations of Maduro that it is plotting with the opposition against him.

The Harvard-educated Lopez has been at the center of rising tensions in Venezuela since he led the biggest demonstration yet against Maduro's 10-month-old government, mobilizing more than 10,000 people on Wednesday to peacefully protest hardships ranging from rampant crime to 56 percent inflation.

The government blamed him for the mayhem that erupted after the rally ended and a group of students battled with security forces and armed pro-government militias, leaving three dead. Most of the demonstrators had gone home before the violence broke out.

Obama: Anti-gay bill step backward for Ugandans

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP)—President Barack Obama warned Uganda Sunday over its plans to further criminalize homosexuality, saying it would "complicate our valued relationship."

Defending gay rights around the world, as he has done at home, Obama said a bill that President Yoweri Museveni has pledged to sign will mark a "step backward" for all Ugandans and reflect poorly on the country's commitment to protect the human rights of its people. It also would represent a serious setback for anyone committed to freedom, justice and equal rights, Obama said.

Obama said the United States stands for the protection of fundamental freedoms and universal human rights and believes people everywhere should be treated equally.

"That is why I am so deeply disappointed that Uganda will shortly enact legislation that would criminalize homosexuality," Obama said in a written statement issued from South-

ern California, where he was spending the weekend. "The Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda, once law, will be more than an affront and a danger to the gay community in Uganda. It will be a step backward for all Ugandans and reflect poorly on Uganda's commitment to protecting the human rights of its people. It also will mark a serious setback for all those around the world who share a commitment to freedom, justice and equal rights."

"Enacting this legislation will complicate our valued relationship with Uganda," he said, adding that the U.S. has conveyed that message to Museveni.

Homosexuality already is illegal in Uganda under a colonial-era law that criminalizes sex acts "against the order of nature."

Museveni said last week that he plans to sign the new legislation, which has alarmed rights activists because it prescribes life imprisonment for acts of "aggravated homosexuality."

Those acts are defined as sex acts where one of the partners is infected with HIV, sex with minors or the disabled and repeated sexual offenses among consenting adults.

It was unclear when Museveni will sign the bill. Ugandan lawmakers passed it in December and Museveni since has been under heavy pressure to enact it. The measure enjoys broad support among Christian clerics and lawmakers who say it is needed to deter Western homosexuals from "recruiting" Ugandan children.

Susan Rice, the U.S. national security adviser, said Sunday on Twitter that she spoke "at length" with Museveni on Saturday night and urged him not to sign the bill.

The United States is Uganda's largest donor, sending more than \$400 million in aid annually in recent years. If Museveni signs the bill, the U.S. is expected to review its relationship with the country with an eye on finding ways to register disappointment over the law.

Focus

Fierce debates as Britain sinks further underwater

People load their boats with sandbags on a flooded street, in Datchet, England, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014. The River Thames has burst its banks after reaching its highest level in years, flooding riverside towns upstream of London. Residents and British troops had piled up sandbags in a bid to protect properties from the latest bout of flooding to hit Britain. But the floods overwhelmed their defences Monday, leaving areas including the centre of the village of Datchet underwater.

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Soggy Britain is being soaked again.

The River Thames has burst its banks, rail lines have been washed away, villages have been turned into islands and soldiers are out on the front lines filling sandbags. As residents battled to save their homes—and British politicians battled one another—yet another storm hit the U.K. on Wednesday, pummeling the west coast with torrential rain and wind gusts up to 106 mph (170 kph).

Here's a look at the nation's exceptionally wet and wild weather.

WHAT CAUSED THE FLOODS?

Rain, rain and more rain. England has had its wettest January since records began almost 250 years ago. Since December, the country has been lashed by waves of wind and rain connected to a faster-than-usual jet stream, which flows from west to east across the Atlantic. Britain's weather agency, the Met Office, says "there's no definitive answer" on the role played by climate change in the recent weather. But it says there's "an increasing body of evidence that shows that extreme daily rainfall rates are becoming more intense"—likely due to a warming world.

HOW BAD IS IT?

About 5,800 properties have flooded since December along England's southwest coast, the low-lying Somerset Levels and the Thames Valley west of London, where several riverside villages and hundreds of pricey properties were swamped this week as the river burst its banks. The Severn and Wye rivers in western England are also on flood alert. On the Levels, which often flood, thousands of acres (hectares) of farmland have been under water since the beginning of January, with some villages accessible only by boat or emergency vehicles.

Still, it's not as bad as summer storms in 2007 that flooded more than 50,000 homes and left a dozen people dead.

IS LONDON THREATENED?

Although the Thames is flooding up to London's western limit, the river is not expected to burst its banks in the city center. The part of the Thames that runs through London toward the sea is tidal and is protected by the Thames Barrier, a series of 66-foot (20-meter) high metal gates across the entire river that can be closed to stop the tide from coming up. By holding back the tide, the barrier creates more space in the river for excess water from upstream to flow down. At low

Fierce storms lash England

High winds, severe flooding, coastal storm surge and downed power lines are tormenting the British Isles as repeated storm fronts have passed over, with more rain on the way.

- Flooding
- Forecast strong storm surge
- ◆ Fires caused by power lines downed by wind

1. **Tewkesbury** Soldiers pack sandbags for this area, flooded by River Severn
2. **Winchester** Royal Navy personnel lay sandbags to protect historic Pilgrim's School; River Itchen rising above banks
3. **Datchet** Princes William and Harry stand in waist-deep flood water while laying sandbags at Eton End private school
4. **Borth** Fire on peat bog reportedly started by downed power lines
5. **Purley on Thames** Car that was subject of a police chase during storm crashes into two cyclists, killing both; driver arrested



The United Kingdom has experienced several high magnitude floods over the last 15 years, signalling the start of an apparent flood rich phase; up until 2000 there had been relatively few severe flood events—1968 and 1947

tide, the Thames barrier is then opened and the floodwaters flow to the sea.

HOW MUCH WILL THE FLOODS COST?

The current crisis is worse than floods in late 2012 that the En-

vironment Agency calculated cost the economy 600 million pounds (\$1 billion). Insurers face a multimillion-pound (-dollar) bill from flooded homes and businesses. As well, fertile farmland is under water, fishermen can't go out to sea

and waves have washed away part of the main rail line to the southwest.

COULD MORE HAVE BEEN DONE TO PREVENT FLOODING?

Flooded residents certainly think so. Many blame a lack of planning and budget-slashing. The government's Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has seen its budget cut by 500 million pounds (\$820 million) since 2010 by Britain's Conservative-led government. The abandonment of annual river dredging during the 1990s has also become a hot issue. Scientists say dredging—which allows rivers to carry more water and flow more quickly—wouldn't have prevented the current floods but might have lessened their impact.

"With the amount of rainfall we've had, it was always going to be a very severe flood," said Hannah Cloke, associate professor of hydrology at the University of Reading.

SO WHAT ARE THE POLITICIANS DOING?

Politicians have responded to the public anger with a flurry of bickering and finger-pointing. Some blamed the Environment Agency, the body in charge of flood defenses; it responded it was doing its best with a reduced budget. Sensing a politi-

cal crisis, Prime Minister David Cameron cancelled a trip to the Middle East and has chaired crisis meetings on the floods. He told lawmakers Wednesday that "money is no object in this relief effort" and promised that everything from pumps to troops would be sent to flood-hit areas.

WHEN WILL IT ALL END?

It's not clear yet. The Met Office says at least one more storm is due this week, though the weather may settle down later in February. The Environment Agency has warned communities along the Thames and in Somerset to expect more flooding. In the long run, some areas may have to be abandoned to the water. The coast is being eroded by the sea, while areas like the Somerset Levels rely on dredging and pumping just to keep water at bay. And across the country, thousands of houses have been built on flood plains. As sea levels rise with global warming, some say it may become too expensive to save them.

Richard Ashley, a flooding expert and emeritus professor at the University of Sheffield, says the problem won't be solved by throwing money at it. He says officials have to face up to a future of floods and "change the culture of how they approach this."

"It is going to continue to get worse," he predicted.

Overdrive

Grab a Mazda3 before everyone else figures it out



The 2014 Mazda3 has been completely redesigned for this model year.

MAZDA/MCT

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

If the 2014 Mazda3 wore a Honda or Toyota badge, there would be a waiting list to buy one. But since it wears a Mazda badge, it's ignored by myopic car buyers used to buying other brands. Too bad; they don't know what they're missing.

As was the case in 2013, the new Mazda3 is available as a four-door sedan or five-door hatchback. There are four trim levels. The base SV model is available only on the sedan, while the Sport, Touring and Grand Touring are offered in either body style.

Both bodies wear Mazda's sporty new design language, which gives the car a sense of motion. A five-sided grille serves as its anchor, framed in chrome trim that sweeps up to meet the sculpted hood, fenders and doors. It looks fast.

Inside, Mazda's obsession with speed and performance continues.

The instrument cluster is dominated by a large tachometer; a small digital readout provides the car's speed. This sporty aura is reinforced by paddle shifters mounted on the steering wheel that allow for manual shifts of the automatic transmission. A new head-up display system, which the company calls Active Driving Display, is mounted above the instrument cluster and

provides vehicle speed, navigation and other information.

But this car's goodness goes beyond style. Check out the new infotainment system that's displayed on the 7-inch screen atop the center console. It's much

framed in piano black and satin silver trim that gives the vehicle a bit of panache. On the test car, the white seats and door trim were a relief.

Seats were comfortable and supportive. Head- and legroom were more than sufficient up front, although a bit dearer in the back. Of course, you may not care about rear-seat legroom once you toss the Mazda3 around.

Two four-cylinder engines are offered: a 155-horsepower 2.0-liter mated to six-speed manual or automatic transmission, and a 184-horsepower 2.5-liter, which comes only with the automatic. The larger engine is available only on Touring and Grand Touring models; the smaller one is available on all models. The four trims—SV, Sport, Touring and Grand Touring—are preceded by an I for the smaller engine, or an S for the larger one.

Of course, Mazda sent a fully loaded five-door S Grand Touring model. It was a lively driving companion, proving to be more fun than most cars in this class. It's as if the company injected the Mazda3 with some of the Miata's DNA. Few fuel-sippers are this much fun to drive.

Credit goes to the car's snubbed-down suspension, allowing the Mazda3 to be driven as if you stole it. It snakes

through corners while remaining absolutely flat. The trade-off is a fairly stiff ride, but it's worth the compromise. Unfortunately, you'll also have to contend with a fair bit of road and tire noise.

Despite its performance, the Mazda3 returned 31 mpg in mixed driving due to the car's Intelligent Energy Loop system, or i-Loop for short. This option converts the car's braking energy into electricity to power components in the car and that, in turn, improves fuel economy.

But if you need more than just good performance and fuel economy, the Mazda3 has a long list of options. They include blind-spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, lane-departure warning, forward-obstruction warning, radar cruise control, adaptive front lighting, rear-view camera, heated leather seats, automatic headlamps and rain-sensing windshield wipers.

Of course, all of this goodness comes at a price. While the Mazda3 starts at \$16,945 for the I SV, it goes as high as \$26,495 for a top-of-the-line S Grand Touring. With options, the test car came to \$30,260. That's pricey for a mass-market compact, but not for one as well equipped and as capable as the Mazda3.

That's why, if you're looking for a new small car, take off your blinders and head to your Mazda dealer for a test drive. You may end up not going anywhere else.

MOTORING Q&A

Saturn VUE owner is tired of its shake, rattle and roll

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2004 four-cylinder Saturn Vue with 65,000 miles. It feels like the car will tear apart when I hit a large bump. Is this normal or do I have other problems?

ANSWER: The most obvious suspects are the shock absorber/struts. Whether a separate shock absorber or built into a MacPherson strut assembly, these hydraulic devices are designed to dampen, absorb and control up/down movements of the suspension. They control load/weight transfer through the chassis and soften the impact of sudden bumps on passengers. If you are beginning to anticipate and brace for the impact of bumps, the shocks are significantly worn or there are loose suspension components.

How can you test for worn shocks? Well, in the "good ol' days," you could jump on the bumper at each corner of the vehicle and count how many times it moved up and down. Unfortunately, that's not a particularly valid test with modern vehicles.

Today, a close visual inspection for leaking hydraulic fluid from a shock absorber or strut is the first test. A light "haze" of dampness on the shock itself is not confirmation of failure, but fluid soaking the lower half of the shock/strut and surrounding parts or fluid dripping from the unit is. Checking for worn or loose mounting bushings in the suspension and strut mounts. Worn upper bearing plates can also identify causes for poor ride and handling.

Here's today's reality. If you plan to keep a typical mainstream, average-priced vehicle for 150,000 miles, anticipate replacing the shocks/struts at roughly "half-life"—around 75,000 miles.

One additional thought—has the vehicle been involved in a significant crash? If so, residual damage, poor quality repairs or bent suspension/steering components could be a factor.

Q: Our 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe has the 2.7-liter V-6. Every time we fill the fuel tank, the engine floods, making it a hard to start and keep running properly. It takes a few minutes to overcome this problem. We have tried partially filling the tank but that didn't have any effect.

A: Focus on the EVAP system—evaporative emissions control system. As you fill the tank, fuel vapor is collected in the charcoal canister. When you start the engine, the engine control module opens the purge control solenoid valve, which applies manifold vacuum to the canister to mix the trapped vapor with air and draw it into the combustion chambers to burn.

If this valve is leaking or stuck open, or if the canister is filled with liquid fuel from overfilling the fuel tank, the engine may flood during refueling. A scan tool can identify specific faults with the EVAP system and valves.

Q: I have a 2008 Honda Pilot with 68,000 miles. Recently the "check engine" light illuminated and a local shop read a P0420 code. This is "rear bank catalyst efficiency below threshold." This is my third Honda, each having been driven 10 years and over 100,000 miles without a catalytic converter problem. In fact, Honda's warranty on the converter is eight years/80,000 miles. In doing research, it appears this code is not unusual on many cars. I have learned that it may not be the catalytic converter, but rather something about the fuel-air mixture or exhaust being abnormal. I want to take this to the Honda dealer and would appreciate any advice on what to say to them in case the service writer just wants to replace the converter.

A: Honda's troubleshooting guide for the P0420 DTC fault code includes a specific note indicating that poor fuel quality can generate this code, and to troubleshoot and clear any stored oxygen sensor codes before proceeding. Their diagnostic tests involve driving the car under specific conditions while monitoring the OBD status. The results can be "passed/intermittent failure, or failed." If the final result is "failed," have the specific converter in question replaced under the federal (not Honda) eight-year/80,000-mile emissions warranty.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Mazda3:

- Engine: 2.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- Wheelbase: 106.3 inches
- Length: 175.6 inches
- Weight: 3,002 pounds
- Cargo space: 20.2-47.1 cubic feet (five-door)
- EPA rating (city/highway): 28/38 mpg
- Fuel consumption: 31 mpg
- Fuel type: Regular
- Base price, base model: \$16,945
- Base price, test model: \$26,495
- As tested, including destination charge: \$30,260

Life & Style

'12 Years a Slave' named best film at UK awards

LONDON (AP)—The force of "Gravity" was strong at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday—but it was unflinching drama "12 Years a Slave" that took the top prize.

Steve McQueen's visceral, violent story of a free black man kidnapped into servitude in the 19th-century U.S. South was named best picture. Its star, Chiwetel Ejiofor, took the male acting trophy.

Ejiofor thanked McQueen, a visual artist who turned to filmmaking with "Hunger" and "Shame," for bringing the story to the screen.

Holding the trophy, the British actor told McQueen: "This is yours. I'm going to keep it—that's the kind of guy I am—but it's yours."

McQueen reminded the ceremony's black-tie audience that, in some parts of the world, slavery is not a thing of the past.

"There are 21 million people in slavery as we sit here," he said. "I just hope 150 years from now our ambivalence will not allow another filmmaker to make this film."

The prizes, coming two weeks before Hollywood's Academy Awards, are watched as an indicator of likely Oscars success.

It was a good night for lost-in-space thriller "Gravity," which won six prizes, including best director for Alfonso Cuaron.

The 3-D special effects extravaganza also took the awards for sound, music, cinematography and visual effects. And despite its mixed parentage—made in Britain by a Mexican director and starring American actors—it was named best British film.

Cuaron paid tribute to star Sandra Bullock, who is alone onscreen for much of the film.

"Without her performance, everything would have been nonsense," he said.



Chiwetel Ejiofor winner of best actor poses for photographers in the winners room at the EE British Academy Film Awards held at the Royal Opera House on Sunday Feb. 16, 2014, in London.

AP

Con-artist caper "American Hustle" charmed its way to three prizes, including original screenplay and supporting actress for Jennifer Lawrence. Its spectacular 70s stylings took the hair and makeup award.

The best-actress prize went to Cate Blanchett for her turn as a socialite on the slide in "Blue Jasmine." She dedicated the award to her friend and fellow actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, who died this month, calling him "a monumental presence who is now sadly an absence."

"Phil, buddy, this is for you, you bastard. I hope you're proud," Blanchett said.

The supporting actor prize went to Barkhad Abdi, who made an explosive screen debut as a Somali pirate in "Captain Phillips."

The 28-year-old called his experience of going from obscurity in Minnesota to stardom—complete with an Oscar nomination—"surreal."

In the past few years, the British prizes, known as BAFTAs, have helped underdog films, including "Slumdog

Millionaire," "The King's Speech" and "The Artist," gain Oscars momentum.

The prize for adapted screenplay went to "Philomena," based on the true story of an Irish woman's decades-long search for the son she was forced to give up for adoption.

The awards have become an essential stop for many Hollywood stars before the Academy Awards, held this year on March 2.

The temperature in London was hardly Hollywood, but Britain's fickle weather relented ahead of Sunday's ceremony. The sun shone as nominees including "Wolf of Wall Street" star Leonardo DiCaprio and "12 Years a Slave" performer Lupita Nyong'o—striking in a green Dior gown—walked the red carpet outside London's Royal Opera House.

Best-actress nominee Amy Adams wore a black dress by Victoria Beckham, and revealed the inspirations for her "American Hustle" character's faux-British accent: "Marianne Faithfull and Julie Christie."

There was royalty of the Hollywood kind—Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, wearing matching tuxedos. And there was British royalty, too, in the form of Prince William, honorary president of the film academy.

The documentary prize went to Joshua Oppenheimer's "The Act of Killing," a powerful look at hundreds of thousands of killings carried out in 1960s Indonesia in the name of fighting communism.

Will Poulter ("Son of Rambow," "We're the Millers"), a 21-year-old actor, won the rising star award, decided by public vote.

Director Peter Greenaway received an award for outstanding contribution to British cinema for a body of unsettling, comic and erotic films that includes "The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover" and "The Draughtsman's Contract."

Greenaway said he hoped the trophy would encourage those, like him, "who believe that cinema has to be continually reinvented."

Helen Mirren received the British Academy Fellowship in recognition of a career that has ranged from a hard-nosed detective in TV series "Prime Suspect" to Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen."

Mirren, 68, said she was "almost speechless" at receiving the honor, whose previous recipients include Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Elizabeth Taylor and Judi Dench.

"It's been an amazing journey up to now," she said.

She was given the trophy by Prince William—who said he should probably call her "granny." Mirren won an Oscar for playing his grandmother, Britain's monarch, in "The Queen."

"I wanted to have a hanky in my bag and take it out and spit on it and clean his face," Mirren joked.

WINNERS LIST

LONDON (AP)—Winners of the 2014 British Academy Film Awards, presented Sunday:

- **Film**—"12 Years a Slave"
- **British Film**—"Gravity"
- **Director**—Alfonso Cuaron, "Gravity"
- **Actor**—Chiwetel Ejiofor, "12 Years a Slave"
- **Actress**—Cate Blanchett, "Blue Jasmine"
- **Supporting Actor**—Barkhad Abdi, "Captain Phillips"
- **Supporting Actress**—Jennifer Lawrence, "American Hustle"
- **Rising Star**—Will Poulter
- **British Debut**—Writer-director Kieran Evans, "Kelly + Victor"
- **Original Screenplay**—Eric Warren Singer and David O. Russell, "American Hustle"
- **Adapted Screenplay**—Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope, "Philomena"
- **Film Not in the English Language**—"The Great Beauty"
- **Music**—"Gravity"
- **Cinematography**—"Gravity"
- **Editing**—"Rush"
- **Production Design**—"The Great Gatsby"
- **Costume Design**—"The Great Gatsby"
- **Sound**—"Gravity"
- **Visual Effects**—"Gravity"
- **Makeup and Hair**—"American Hustle"
- **Animated Feature**—"Frozen"
- **Short Film**—"Room 8"
- **Short Animation**—"Sleeping With the Fishes"
- **Documentary**—"The Act of Killing"
- **Outstanding Contribution to British Cinema**—Peter Greenaway
- **Academy Fellowship**—Helen Mirren

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP)—Racing against time, South Carolina archeologists are digging to uncover the remnants of a Civil War-era prisoner-of-war camp before the site in downtown Columbia is cleared to make room for a mixed-use development.

The researchers have been given four months to excavate a small portion of the 165-acre (66.7-hectare) grounds of the former South Carolina State Hospital to find the remnants of what was once known as "Camp Asylum." Conditions at the camp, which held 1,500 Union Army officers during the winter of 1864-65, were so dire that soldiers dug and lived in holes in the ground, which provided shelter against the cold.

The site was sold to a developer for \$15 million last summer, amid hopes it becomes an urban campus of shops and apartments and possibly a minor league baseball field.

Chief archaeologist Chester DePratter said researchers are digging through soil to locate the holes—the largest being 7 feet (2.1 meters) long, 6 feet (1.8 meters) wide and 3 feet (90 centimeters) deep—as well as whatever possessions the officers may have left behind.

"Almost everybody lived in holes, although the Confederacy did try to procure tents along the way, as they

could obtain them," said DePratter, a research archaeologist with the University of South Carolina's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

DePratter said he's been able to track down about 40 diaries written by camp survivors, telling tales of suffering and survival, as well as dozens of letters written by the prisoners about their experiences. He said they came from states across the North, and from many different military units.

US archeologists race to uncover Civil War prison

By **SUSANNE M. SCHAFER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It's hard to imagine. They all talk about their clothing being threadbare, many of them had no shoes. They shared the blankets they had, three or four together spoon fashion and put a blanket over them" to stay warm, DePratter said. "They wrote about how every prisoner in the camp would walk about at night to keep from freezing to death."

Amazingly, only one officer died there.

Officers were useful for prisoner exchanges, so they were shuttled from site to site as the war progressed. The enlisted men were sent to the notorious prison at Andersonville, Georgia, where 12,000

Union soldiers died of illness and privation. The officers, however, were held in Richmond, Virginia, then Macon, Georgia, before being sent to Savannah and Charleston, South Carolina.

After a yellow fever outbreak in Charleston, they were brought to Columbia, where they were put in an open field dubbed "Camp Sorghum" on the western side of the Congaree River across from Columbia. But when hundreds started escaping into

the surrounding countryside, they were shifted to the mental hospital's grounds, which are surrounded by a 10-foot (3-meter) brick wall.

As the researchers dig and sift the reddish earth, they uncover buttons, combs, remnants of clothing and utensils presumably used by the prisoners. One hole contained crudely made bricks the prisoners fashioned by hand, which they stacked to offer protection from the wind and rain.

The developer has given DePratter \$25,000, which has been matched by the city, to start his dig. He's been able to raise another \$17,000.

DePratter is hoping to raise additional funds to pay for ground-penetrating radar to avoid the utility pipes that crisscross the site. He has until the end of April to dig out as much as he can. Everything the crew finds is going to be held for preservation and study through the archaeology institute, he said.

Tours—set up through the Historic Columbia Foundation at \$10 per person—are being conducted to help bring attention to the archaeology project.

Eric Leonard, the director of education at the Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia, which also houses a prisoner of war museum, said it is important to uncover the histories of prisoners even if it is an unpleasant topic.

"Prisoners of war are an example of the extraordinary cost of war. It's not an easy story to tell, and it's not a happy story. But it delves into the consequences of war," Leonard said.

Leonard added that unearthing artifacts is also important to do, since it gives people today a broader picture of the human story that might not jump out of the printed page.

Joe Long, the curator of education for the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum in Columbia, said the prisoners were educated officers, who were more hardened to the elements than people today.

"These were intelligent, skilled men, and they produced some beautiful crafts," Long said. His museum has purchased a pipe carved by one of the prisoners from a hardened root ball of briarwood.

Long added that the waning days of the Civil War have gotten little historical attention, and need to be academically documented.

Long noted that in order to keep their spirits up, the prisoners formed a glee club, and sang for themselves and the local populace.

"The camp commandant had a rule, he told them they could sing all the Yankee songs as they wanted, but they also had to sing a Southern song. So they'd sing 'Battle Hymn of the Republic,' and then they'd sing 'Dixie,'" Long said with a laugh.

Three days before Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's forces entered the city, the men were moved to Charlotte, and then to Wilmington, North Carolina. Shortly thereafter the war ended, and prisoners on both sides were freed.

Chart-topping Missouri nuns to release Lent album



In this Nov. 18, 2013 photo provided by De Montfort Music, Mother Cecilia, left, conducts the Sisters during the recording sessions for "Lent at Ephesus" in the chapel at the Priory of The Benedictines of Mary called "Ephesus" near Gower, Mo.

GOWER, Missouri (AP)—Eight times a day, a group of nuns files into a chapel in their rural northwest Missouri monastery to chant and worship.

Quite unexpectedly, this private, prayerful pursuit has made the Benedictines of Mary a chart-topping recording industry curiosity. After being named Billboard's No. 1 Classical Traditional Artist of 2012 and 2013, the nuns released their third album, called "Lent At Ephesus," Feb. 11 on the De Montfort Music/Decca/Universal Classics label.

Matt Abramovitz, program director for New York classical radio station WQXR, which has featured the new album on air, said the station didn't know

what to make of it when the nuns' first record arrived.

"They're not professional singers," he said. "They aren't singing traditional classical repertoire, which is what we normally play, but we gave it a listen, and we were stunned by the quality of the performance and the sincerity. And they really were a hit with our audience."

The latest album includes a capella chants, intricate harmonies and hymns of glory and redemption, all designed to capture the Christian season of preparation before Easter. How this album and the nuns' earlier releases—"Advent at Ephesus" and "Angels and Saints at Ephesus"—came to develop a fol-

lowing among classical and religious music lovers is something the monastery's prioress can only explain in religious terms.

"With God," said Mother Cecilia Snell, "all things are possible."

The 22 nuns, with an average age of 29, live modestly at the monastery surrounded by about 280 acres (113.3 hectares) of northwest Missouri farmland. They model their existence after life in the early sixth-century monasteries and still wear the black and white habits that were largely abandoned half a century ago.

Few get a glimpse into the nuns' daily life, with the exception of visiting priests who come to the area to recharge. Unlike many

U.S. nuns who devote themselves to public pursuits such as teaching or nursing, the nuns' main focus is chanting each of the 150 poetic works found in the book of Psalms at least once each week in Latin, a language Snell describes as "mystical."

When they aren't chanting—the task consumes about four hours daily—they speak little so they can better focus on communing with God. The sisters don't use the Internet, and Snell does so only in a limited way.

Someone who had heard their chanting suggested they make a CD as a thank-you to benefactors. Snell, a former French horn player in the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Ohio,

acted as the producer.

The pathway to a broader audience began when one of their recordings was given to Monica Fitzgibbons, general manager of De Montfort Music, based in Chicago, and tossed in a pile with other CDs. It might still be there if Fitzgibbons' young son hadn't asked to listen to it. Fitzgibbons, a former DreamWorks executive, and her husband, Kevin, a former Sony executive, were hooked.

"We know how to hear things in their raw state, and we found it beautiful," Monica Fitzgibbons said.

So the couple arranged to record the nuns at their monastery.

The nuns receive prayer requests and notes of thanks from listeners. One recent letter came from a woman who described playing the nuns' music as her husband was dying and talked about the comfort it brought.

The nuns also use the profit they make from the recordings

to help pay off the monastery they moved into in 2010 outside Gower, a town of about 1,500 that is located about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of Kansas City.

Given that their existence is so isolated, Snell said the attention the music is receiving is the "last thing" she thought would happen when she became a nun. The decision meant giving up her hard-earned spot in the symphony, which she said had given her "a little taste of the beauty of making music with others."

Ultimately, though, playing with an orchestra wasn't what God was asking of her, she said.

"I know people were thinking, 'What is she thinking? She is crazy. She is throwing her life away. She is throwing her talents away,'" she said. "But that is not how God works. He takes that offering seriously and He can multiply it 100-fold, which seems to be what He is doing. It is all His plans, His providence."

'Lego Movie' blocks 'RoboCop,' 'About Last Night' at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Lego Movie" built a huge lead on top of the weekend's new releases at the box office.

In its second outing, the Warner Bros. animated film featuring the voices of Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks and Will Arnett earned \$48.8 million to take first place, according to studio estimates Sunday. That brings the film based on the toy brick-building franchise's domestic box office total to \$129.1 million, cementing it was one of the biggest blockbusters of the year.

"It's crossing over to all audiences," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "It's not just a kids' movie. There's

something for boys, girls and adults, as well. The likeability is astronomical. That across-the-board appeal is giving 'The Lego Movie' unstoppable momentum, even in a weekend loaded with new competitors."

"The Lego Movie" earned an additional \$27.7 million from 42 international territories, including the United Kingdom, Holland, Sweden and Norway. The worldwide total box office for "Lego Movie" now stands at \$180.3 million.

Sony's romantic comedy "About Last Night" starring Kevin Hart and Michael Ealy came in second place with \$27 million. The strong showing further dem-

onstrated Hart's clout as a box-of-

1. **"The Lego Movie,"** \$48.8 million (\$27.7 million international).
2. **"About Last Night,"** \$27 million.
3. **"RoboCop,"** \$21.5 million (\$35 million international).
4. **"The Monuments Men,"** \$15 million (\$8.9 million international).
5. **"Endless Love,"** \$13.4 million (\$3.9 million international).
6. **"Ride Along,"** \$8.8 million.
7. **"Winter's Tale,"** \$7.8 million (\$4 million international).
8. **"Frozen,"** \$5.9 million (\$18.2 million international).
9. **"Lone Survivor,"** \$4 million (\$750,000 international).
10. **"That Awkward Moment,"** \$3.3 million (\$2.1 million international).

something for boys, girls and adults, as well. The likeability is astronomical. That across-the-board appeal is giving 'The Lego Movie' unstoppable momentum, even in a weekend loaded with new competitors."

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Sony's romantic comedy "About Last Night" starring Kevin Hart and Michael Ealy came in second place with \$27 million. The strong showing further dem-

onstrated Hart's clout as a box-of-

Gary Oldman and Michael Keaton captured third place with \$21.5 million. The update to the original 1987 sci-fi film starring Peter Weller as a robotic officer performed better overseas, earning \$35 million from 37 international markets, including France, Australia and Germany. The weekend's other new releases, Universal's coming-of-age drama "Endless Love" and the Warner Bros. novel adaptation "Winter's Tale," respectively earned the fifth and seventh spots at the box office. "Endless Love," starring Alex Pettyfer and Gabriella Wilde, wooed \$13.4 million, while the Colin Farrell drama "Winter's Tale" made a chilly \$7.8 million.

Johnny Depp honored at makeup and hair awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In an awards season that seems to have a ceremony for every facet of filmmaking, the Make-up and Hair Stylists Guild awards returned after a 10-year hiatus with an award for Johnny Depp.

The actor received the first ever distinguished artisan award for his work in films like "Edward Scissorhands," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Alice in Wonderland."

Depp's honor was presented by his long-time collaborator and makeup artist Joel Harlow, who is nominated for an Academy Award this year for makeup in "The Lone Ranger." Depp also starred in the film.

"This is a great honor, but glancing up at the screen I realize what a ridiculous thing I've done," joked Depp while accepting his trophy after clips of his work were shown at Paramount Studios theatre on Saturday evening.

"I mean seriously, why do they still give me jobs?" he added. "I've done a lot of things...I should probably apologize for a few, but I won't."

Praising the work of the makeup artists who've helped him "find the root of each character," the soft-spoken actor said he liked when his face was molded in "A Nightmare on



Actor Johnny Depp accepts the Distinguished Artisan Award at The Make-Up Artists and Hair Stylists Guild Awards on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014 at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles, California.

Elm Street."

"I found, oddly, that I liked being encased in all of that stuff," he said. "I try something different each time as an actor with the amazing help of makeup artists who have made my whole career."

Resembling the boozy party that is the Golden Globes rather than the formal Oscars, the makeup and hair stylists awards, which honors the best in the business from film to television, was a reunion for the behind-the-scenes artists. Squeals echoed throughout the auditorium as artists with

multi-colored hair and thick cat-eye style makeup hugged and kissed.

"It's our circle or little family's time to celebrate," said Harlow prior to the ceremony.

As an ode to visual effects, a woman painted white and dressed in white stood in the lobby balancing a large headpiece made of flowers as she was lit by green lights. Host Tom Arnold later joked she looked "edible, like a big white cake."

There to present the award for best contemporary hair styling to the stylists for "Lee Dan-

iels' the Butler," best supporting actress Oscar nominee June Squibb called the green lighting "wild." Turns out she loves the color. She's even asked Tadashi Shoji to make her a green dress for Oscar night. "I've seen a sketch and it's wonderful!" she added.

Some of the evening's other awards went to Oscar nominees "Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa" for best special makeup effects and "Dallas Buyers Club" for best period and/or character makeup, while best contemporary hair styling in a television series went to "The Voice."

Makeup artist Dick Smith and hairstylist Gail Ryan received lifetime achievement awards.

Jane Lynch, Ed Asner, Johnny Knoxville, Nicollette Sheridan and Melissa Leo were among the presenters at the charming awards show that even included the engagement of a gay couple.

"Just have fun, that's all this is about," said Sue Cabral-Ebert, president of the Make-up Artists and Hair Stylists Guild. "It's not brain surgery."

Could a gaffers and grips gala be next?

"You should see the electrical staff's awards," joked Arnold. "It's madness!"

The Oscar ceremony will take place March 2.

Powerball estimated jackpot surges to \$400M

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Without a Powerball winner this weekend, the prize has climbed to \$400 million—one of the largest in U.S. lottery history.

Lottery officials said no one matched all six numbers for Saturday's \$330.8 million drawing.

The next drawing is Wednesday, and will be the fourth-biggest Powerball jackpot and sixth-highest lottery prize of all time—at least \$400 million or

\$227.8 million in a lump sum.

Large jackpots tend to boost ticket sales and make it more likely the prize will be shared, and changes to the Powerball and Mega Millions games have the jackpots reaching fantasy-inducing levels more often.

The current jackpot began its ascent at the end of 2013.

More than half of the top 10 prizes in U.S. lottery history have occurred since

2012, according to statistics provided by the Multi-State Lottery Association.

The nation's biggest lottery prize was a \$656 million dollar Mega Millions jackpot in March 2012 that was shared by three winning tickets sold in Kansas, Illinois and Maryland. The second-largest came in December, a \$636 million Mega Millions prize. The two winning tickets were purchased in San

Jose, California, and Atlanta.

The biggest Powerball jackpot ever was a \$590.5 million prize won by a Florida woman last May.

The odds of matching all six Powerball numbers are 1 in about 175 million, according to statistics from the Multi-State Lottery Association in Iowa.

Powerball is played in 43 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Snake-handling US pastor dies from snake bite

MIDDLESBORO, Kentucky (AP)—A snake-handling Kentucky pastor who appeared on the National Geographic television reality show "Snake Salvation" has died after being bitten by a snake.

According to a news release from the Middlesboro Police Department, someone called first responders at about 8:30 p.m. Saturday regarding a snake-bite victim at a church.

When the ambulance arrived, they were told that Jamie Coots had gone home. Contacted at his house, Coots refused medical treatment. Emergency workers left around 9pm. When they returned about an hour later, Coots was dead.

Coots was caught in January 2013 transporting three rattlesnakes and two copperheads through Knoxville, Tennessee, for his church. Tennessee wildlife officials confiscated the snakes, and Coots pleaded guilty to illegally wildlife possession. He was given one year of unsupervised probation.



In this 2013 photo provided by National Geographic Channel, Jamie Coots, a pastor in Middlesboro, Ky., who appeared on the National Geographic television reality show "Snake Salvation," poses for a photo.

Drake apologizes for Rolling Stone blowup

By **GERRICK D. KENNEDY**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Drake has apologized for railing on Rolling Stone after the magazine bumped him off the cover in favor of Philip Seymour Hoffman.

He took to his website on Friday to issue an open letter "to clear the air about an extremely emotional day."

"I completely support and agree with Rolling Stone replacing me on the cover with the legendary Phillip Seymour Hoffman. He is one of the most

incredible actors of our time and a man that deserves to be immortalized by this publication," Drake wrote.

"My frustration stemmed from the way it was executed. The circumstances at hand are completely justifiable (on the magazine's behalf), but I was not able to salvage my story or my photos and that was devastating."

He went on to write that had he be given the choice, he would have waited "until it was my time."

"I understand the magnitude of the cover they chose but I

just wasn't given that option and that made me feel violated. I apologize to anybody who took my initial comments out of context because in no way would I ever want to offend the Hoffman family or see myself as bigger than that moment," he continued.

The rapper-singer created a Twitter firestorm on Thursday when he admonished the publication in a series of tweets to his more than 14 million Twitter followers (some of which were subsequently deleted).

He vented over remarks on

Kanye West that he believed were off the record and was peeved that he lost the cover "last minute" after the magazine replaced him with a tribute to Hoffman, who died of an apparent overdose on Feb. 2.

Drake went so far as to say that he was "disgusted" by the publication and later added that he's "done doing interviews for magazines."

The rapper didn't further address another issue he has with the magazine—that it used comments he made over West's polarizing "Yeezus," saying he was ambivalent about the album and criticizing some of the album's lyrics.

Academy honors scientists behind special effects

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—The scientists and inventors who make big-screen superheroes, spectacular explosions and other only-in-the-movies effects possible have their own Oscar ceremony.

Kristen Bell and Michael B. Jordan hosted the film academy's Scientific and Technical Awards Saturday at the Beverly Hills Hotel, recognizing more than 50 of the most creative scientists and engineers in the movie business.

These are the men who developed the computer technology behind the bullet scene in "The Matrix" and the animation techniques in "Life of Pi."

They're the visionaries who build the things the film industry needs that don't yet exist, like advanced remote helicopter cameras and the Pneumatic Car Flipper (which does what it sounds like), for which they received certificates and plaques from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

One honoree, Joshua Pines, who helped develop image-processing mathematics to standardize color, called the evening "this year's annual winter Olympics for geeks."

The two Oscar statuettes were presented among the night's 21 awards: The Gordon E. Sawyer Award to Peter W. Anderson for



Jeremy Selan, developer of the OpenColorIO color management framework and recipient of a Technical Achievement Award, poses at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' annual Scientific and Technical Awards on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

his contributions to 3-D technology, and an Academy Award of Merit in honor of the countless owners and operators of film-processing labs over the past century. "The Dark Knight"

writer-director Christopher Nolan accepted the film lab Oscar, which will be on permanent display at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles when it opens in 2017.

Dad who defers to son sends wrong message to daughter

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: You were wrong to advise "Starting Anew in Ohio" (Nov. 7), the mother of a 10-year-old girl who wanted the bigger bedroom in their new house, to have her kids draw straws. When the girl made the request, her older brother said he didn't care. The time to have drawn straws was when the girl first made the request, not two months afterward.

The girl is at an age when children can be particularly sensitive about trust issues, and the boy is old enough to know that words have consequences. If the parents reverse course now, the girl will learn that her parents' promises mean nothing, and the boy will learn that he doesn't have to worry about what he says because he can always change it later.

These are not good lessons to teach children. That the father would bow to the boy's request made the situation worse. Maybe he'd think twice if he realized his daughter will now always doubt his word.

JUDY IN OHIO

DEAR JUDY: You are not the only reader who told me my answer wasn't up to my usual standards. In fact, not a single person who wrote to comment agreed with me, and their points were valid. Their comments:

DEAR ABBY: Your solution won't keep the peace in that household; it will end it. The daughter will learn her parents can't be trusted to keep a promise; the son will think he can take anything he wants from his sister because, as the male, he gets his way.

No, Abby, a promise is a promise. And if there's any lesson more important to teach our children, I can't imagine what it is.

HOLLY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ABBY: This is the time to teach that 12-year-old "young man" to be a man of his word. He made the decision that his sister could have the room. The daughter had the guts to ask for what she wanted. Good for her for asking for what she wants. Now they should draw straws to determine the outcome?

The message this sends to the children is, "If you're older, you can get what you want. If you make a promise, you can break it." The daughter should not lose out on what she was promised.

DANIELLE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR ABBY: May I offer a suggestion? The children should be told that each year around the anniversary of their moving to the new house that they will change rooms. It may take some effort and energy, but the benefit would be that both brother and sister get to experience the larger bedroom. It will teach them to compromise.

TAMI IN COLORADO

DEAR ABBY: Having been through this type of situation as a child, I can tell you it destroyed my trust in my mother. Believe me, this will have far-reaching and unintended repercussions in that little girl's life. A promise is a promise!

CANDACE IN THE ROCKIES

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Whatever happened to respect for your elders? None of my six nieces and nephews has ever called me "Uncle Sam," nor have any of their children called me "Mr. B." When the 5-year-old called me "Sammy," a name I loathe, I nearly snapped. Am I out of line?

SAM IN SHEFFIELD, MASS.

DEAR SAM: If "Uncle Sam" is what you prefer to be called, you should have made that clear to your siblings when the nieces and nephews were little. Children are imitative. If their parents call you and refer to you as just plain Sam, don't blame the children for doing the same. I don't know how old the kids are now, but it may be a little late for you to start complaining about this.

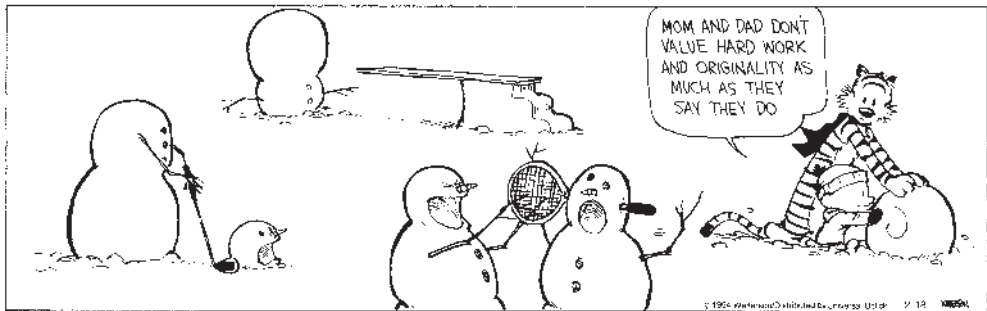
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



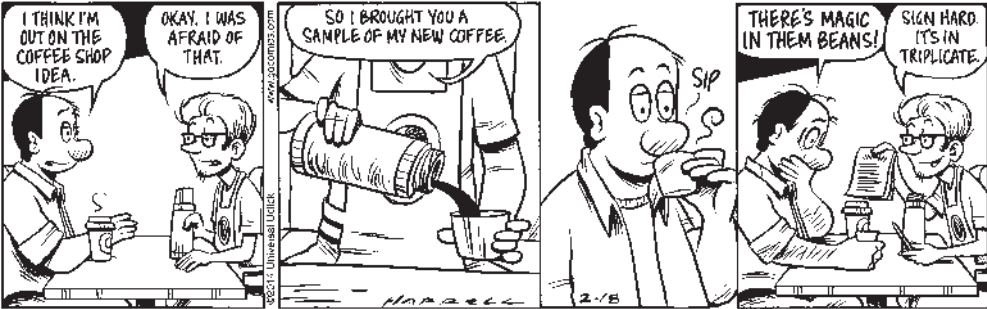
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

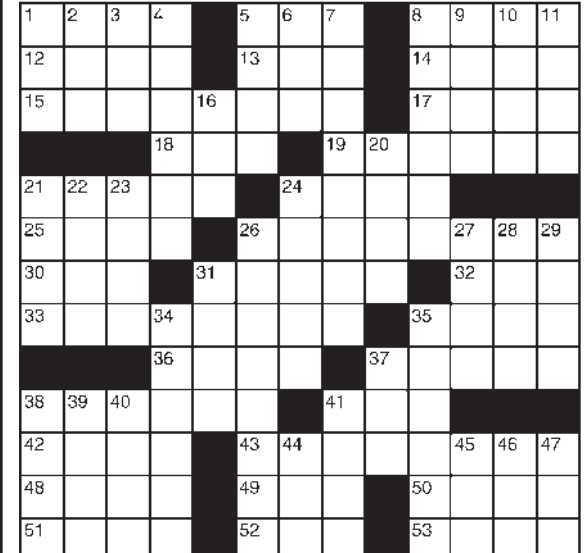
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Senior moment?
 - 5 Resistance measure
 - 8 Zilch (Sp.)
 - 12 Arizona tribe
 - 13 Japanese pond fish
 - 14 Sci-fi fleet
 - 15 Cake, pie, etc.
 - 17 Squirrels' home
 - 18 Meadow
 - 19 Filled pastry of India
 - 21 Perfect
 - 24 Grow weary
 - 25 Squarish
 - 26 Pleasures
 - 30 "— had it!"
 - 31 Under a spell
 - 32 CBS logo
 - 33 Cracks a code
 - 35 Mock
 - 36 Mid-month date
- DOWN**
- 1 Third degree?
 - 2 Shad product
 - 3 Chances, for short
 - 4 Lose
 - 5 Gumbo
 - 6 Scalding
 - 7 Arrows, darts, etc.
 - 8 Connecticut, the — State
 - 9 Roundish coiffure
 - 10 Accomplishes
 - 11 On the briny
 - 16 Conger, for one
 - 20 Desert-like
 - 21 Footnote abbr.
 - 22 Peace symbol
 - 23 Pt. CEO
 - 24 Some messes
 - 26 Trust
 - 27 Noggin
 - 28 Sort
 - 29 Offspring
 - 31 Jekyll's alter ego
 - 34 On the racy side
 - 35 Puzzle maker?
 - 37 Past
 - 38 Weakling
 - 39 Sandwich cookie
 - 40 — and file
 - 41 Grand story
 - 44 Recede
 - 45 Rage
 - 46 Dead heat
 - 47 De-pressed

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Shane Lyons, 26; Molly Ringwald, 46; John Travolta, 60; Yoko Ono, 81.

Happy Birthday: Strategy, coordination and planning will help you reach your destination if you keep your emotions under control. Don't put up with laziness or inconsistency on your part or on the part of anyone else. Equality will be the determining factor when it comes to partnerships. Go directly to the source and head for the finish line. Your numbers are 2, 10, 24, 26, 33, 40, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay in line. Don't ask or look for trouble. Meddling will lead to an argument. Protect your reputation and show compassion for those around you. It's better to be safe than sorry. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Chase your dreams. Plan a vacation, sign up for a course or indulge in something that will help build your confidence. Put romance at the top of your list and make plans to socialize or engage in a one-on-one evening of fun. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Jump into action at work and establish a position that will raise your profile. Don't feel the need to overspend when what's required is dedication, hard work and concern for others. Push your way to the forefront using class, dignity and mindfulness. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Frustration is likely if you are dealing with a friend, child or partner who is trying to guilt you into something. Think before you act

and you will avoid making a mistake. An unusual offer will enhance your life. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for a chance to show off your skills. You will draw scrutiny if you make an unusual choice. A money deal or move to a better location will require sufficient legwork before you set your plans in motion. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A sudden change in your financial situation is likely if you have bought into a get-rich-quick scheme or overspent on something you don't need. An event that is geared toward connecting with old colleagues or friends will bring you interesting opportunities. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Self-reliance is your best bet. Don't count on anyone at home to agree with your plans or help you out. Talk to the people who share your concern or interest and move forward. Equality in any partnership you form will be a must. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trust in your judgment and your abilities. Develop your ideas and don't be afraid to be a little different. Travel plans should be made but not executed until a later date. Romance will help improve your relationship with someone you think is special. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Check out what everyone around you is doing before making a move. Emotional matters at home can be resolved if you are willing to make a couple of changes. Listen to what others say, but get the facts before responding. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be daunted by what others do or say. Step around any negativity you come up against. Go it alone and you will reach your goal. Lean toward a conservative deal and question anyone trying to sell you the impossible. **

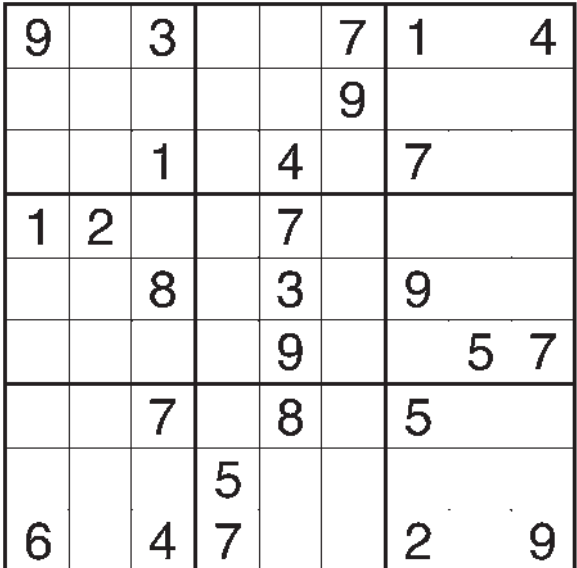
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get involved in something that will enhance who you are and what you can do. Don't feel the need to pay for others or to take on a burden that doesn't belong to you. Concentrate on getting ahead, not on helping someone else advance. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your ideas out there and get involved in events or organizations that can use your expertise and talents. What you have to bring to the table will also be your calling card for new opportunities and adventures. Romance is highlighted. ***

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, entertaining and caring. You fight for your rights. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

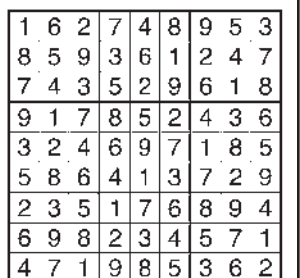
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 2/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★ 2/17

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN (1967-2014) Solution: 12 letters



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Adams, Allen, Big Lebowski, Boating, Boogie Nights, Capote, Cold, Cooper, Doubt, Eight, Emily, Flawless, Games, Gordon, Gordy, Gust, Happiness, Hard, Ides, Jack, Jill, Love, Magnolia, Mahowry, March, Marilyn, Master, Mimi, Moneyball, Mountain, Mr. Ripley, Patch, Play, Savages, Scent, Stage, Talented, Tallulah, True West, Twister, Willa, Woman.
Yesterday's Answer: Handover
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38 call 1-800-642-6490. Order online at wonderword.universallclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

East gets by Durant, Griffin to win All-Star game



NEW ORLEANS
(AP)—The Eastern Conference finally stopped Kevin

Durant and Blake Griffin—then stopped its losing streak at the NBA All-Star game.

Kyrie Irving had 31 points and 14 assists and was voted the game's MVP. Carmelo Anthony made a record eight 3-pointers and scored 30 points, and the East rallied for a 163-155 victory over the West on Sunday night in the highest-scoring All-Star game ever.

"It's a great honor," Irving said. "We had a few MVPs. Everyone out here today is an MVP."

Durant and Griffin each finished with 38 points, four shy of Wilt Chamberlain's All-Star game record. But the East scored the final 10 points to pull out a game it trailed by 18.

"We wanted it," LeBron James said. "I've been a part of the last three and in defeat."

Irving scored 15 points in the fourth quarter as the East ended a three-game losing streak. James had 22 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

"The superstars of our league were just telling us to compete on every play," Irving said. "Trying to play as much defense as possible. You know, sticking to our game plan. We had a game plan going in and we executed."

The 318 points broke the record of 303 set in 1987.

Griffin shot 19 of 23, while Durant finished with 10 rebounds and six assists.

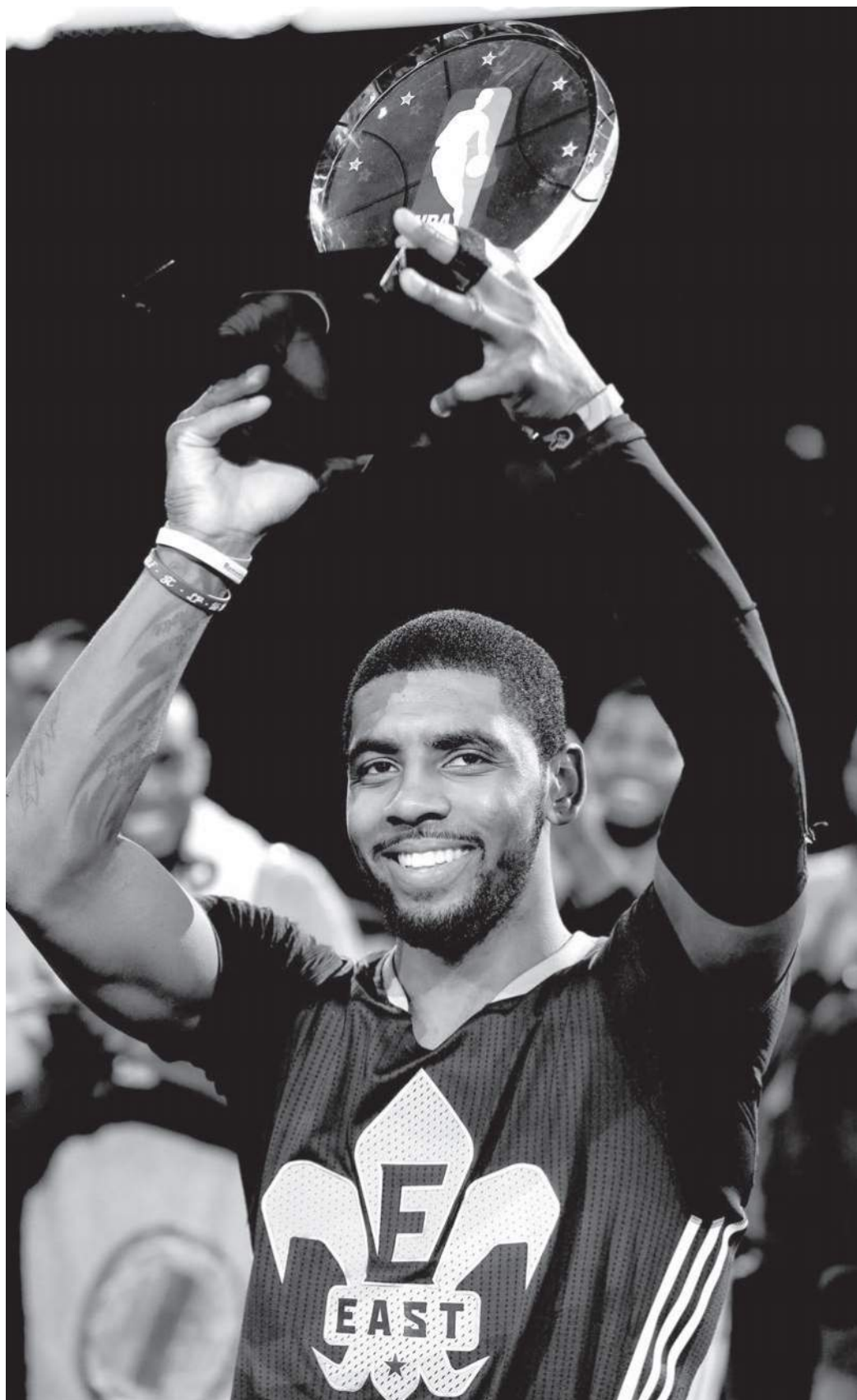
But the West was shut out after Durant's 3-pointer gave it a 155-153 lead with 1:59 left. Indiana's Paul George made three free throws, Anthony nailed his final 3-pointer, and James scored to make it 161-155. George closed it out with two more free throws and finished with 18 points.

The game that usually doesn't get tight until the final minutes was close throughout the fourth quarter, neither team leading by more than four until the final minute.

Chris Paul had 11 points and 13 assists, and first-time All-Star Stephen Curry had 12 points and 11 assists for the West. But the best point guard on the floor was Irving, who shot 14 of 17 and helped the East ring up 87 points in the second half after it surrendered a record 89 in the first.

In a colorful tribute to New Orleans, players wore sneakers and socks that ranged from green and blue to orange and purple, making the game look like a Mardi Gras parade.

The parade was one of layups and dunks for the West, which scored 44 points in the first quarter and 45 in the second. Griffin had 18 points in the first quarter and Durant had 22 at halftime,



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony gestures after making a 3-point basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets on Friday, Feb. 7, 2014, in New York.

both two shy of records set by Glen Rice in 1997.

And there was plenty of music, the rosters and starting lineups introduced around a concert by Pharrell Williams, who was joined by his own All-Stars in Nelly, Busta Rhymes, Sean "Diddy" Combs and Snoop Dogg.

Magic Johnson led a band, too, encouraging the All-Stars to join him in singing "Happy Birthday" after the first quarter to Hall of Famer Bill Russell, the NBA's greatest champion who was celebrating his 80th.

The All-Stars played better than they sang.

The East finished with 61 percent shooting, needing all sorts of offense after it simply couldn't defend Durant and Griffin.

Durant made 6 3-pointers and easily blew past the 28.8 points he had been averaging in All-Star games, which was

an NBA record.

Outside of the ugly sleeved jerseys, it was a good look for the NBA's midseason showcase, bouncing back strongly from an uneven All-Star Saturday night.

The new format of the slam dunk contest Saturday wasn't a hit, but every night is a dunk contest when Griffin is involved.

The guy who once jumped over a car to win a slam dunk contest had eight slams in the first 11 minutes, the backboard often barely finished shaking from the last one when he threw down the next.

The West began to open a gap in the second quarter behind a hometown star and a former one—Anthony Davis of the Pelicans and ex-New Orleans guard Paul. Durant made a 3-pointer with 26 seconds left to make it 89-76 at the break, one point better than he and the West

had two years ago in Orlando.

Durant and Griffin each had 30 points by the end of the third quarter, but the East trimmed what was a West 18-point lead to 126-123 after three.

James Harden started for the West in place of Kobe Bryant, who was elected by the fans but was knocked out by a broken left knee. Bryant said before the game his recovery is "coming slowly" but hopes to be back in another All-Star game.

With Bryant sitting out and longtime regulars Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett not selected, it was a chance for the younger guys to make their mark. The rosters were loaded with players 25 and younger, including first-time starters George, Irving, Stephen Curry and Kevin Love.

The All-Star newcomers also included official Violet Palmer, who became the first female to referee a major U.S. sports league's All-Star game.

Melo rules out trade, open to less than max deal



NEW ORLEANS
(AP)—Carmelo Anthony said Friday he knows "for a fact" the Knicks won't trade him, and said he would be open to staying in New York for less than a maxi-

mum contract.

Anthony has said he plans to become a free agent this summer. The NBA's trade deadline is Thursday, but Anthony ruled out any chance the Knicks would move him to avoid the possibility they could lose him for nothing in July.

"I know for a fact I'm not being traded," Anthony said at the NBA's All-Star weekend. "There's two things: I know for a fact I'm not being traded and I'm not going in there and saying I want to be traded."

New York can pay him around \$30 million more than any team, but Anthony said he wouldn't insist on making the Knicks do it.

"As far as the money, it don't really matter to me. If I go somewhere else I get paid, if I stay in New York I get paid," Anthony said. "So as far as the money goes, that's not my concern. My concern is being able to compete on a high level, at a championship level coming at this last stretch of my career."

The Knicks aren't doing it now. They are 20-32, one of the league's biggest disappointments after winning the

Atlantic Division last season, and are wasting a strong season by Anthony that has him ranked second in the league with 27.3 points per game while also averaging 8.6 rebounds.

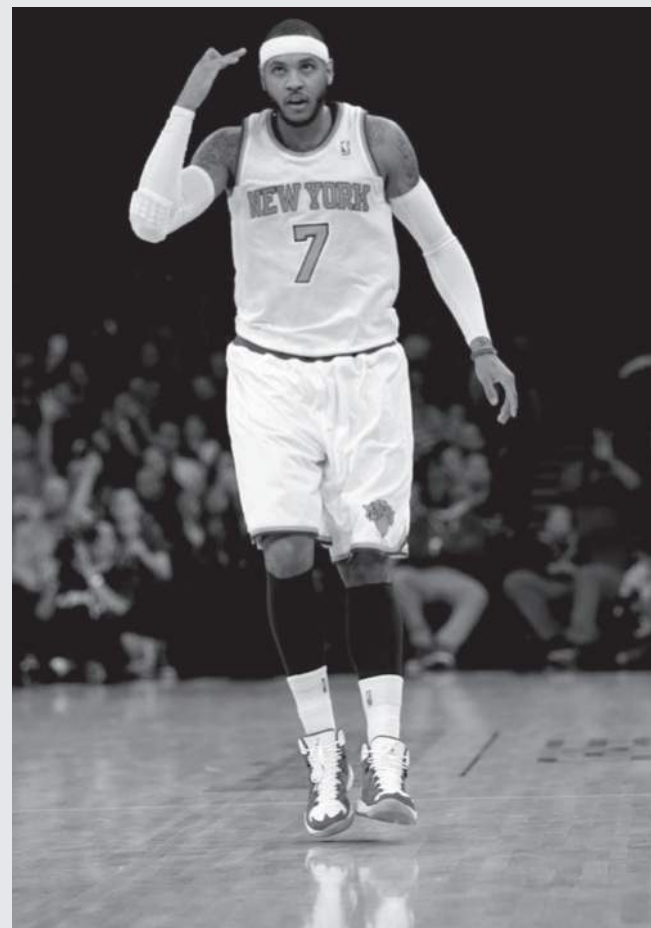
The Knicks need plenty more, and it will be tough to get because they are already so far over the salary cap. Not having to pay Anthony all of the more than \$120 million he would be eligible for could help.

"I talk to people all the time. I always say if it takes me taking a pay cut, I'll be the first one on Mr. Dolan's step saying, 'Take my money, let's build something stronger,'" Anthony said, referring to Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan.

Anthony was traded to New York just after the All-Star game three years ago and has reached the playoffs in each season. But they are currently out of the playoff picture even in the weak Eastern Conference, and Anthony will have to decide if he feels they can put a championship team around him as he approaches his 30th birthday.

"He makes really good decisions and I feel this decision for him will be no different," said the Clippers' Chris Paul, one of Anthony's closest friends in the league.

"I know he loves it there. His family loves it there. Most of all, he loves to play basketball there. I don't know what his decision will be, but whatever he does, I'll support him 110 percent."



East Team's Kyrie Irving, of the Cleveland Cavaliers hold the All Star MVP trophy after the NBA All Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, in New Orleans.

Watson ends a 2-year winless drought at Riviera



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bubba Watson lost track of time. He didn't realize it had been nearly two years and 41 tournaments since his last victory.

A reminder came Sunday afternoon, after he birdied the 18th hole to win the Northern Trust Open by two shots. Walking up the steps to the clubhouse he saw his son, Caleb, who was adopted shortly before Watson won the 2012 Masters.

Watson was alone in his green jacket that day. This time, wife and son were at Riviera to watch a masterpiece.

He played the final 39 holes without a bogey. He had a 64-64 weekend. He made up a four-shot deficit in six holes, and closed with the lowest round by a winner of this tournament in 28 years.

This wasn't "Bubba" golf. It simply was great golf. And he couldn't wait to celebrate.

"When I won the Masters, it was just me," Watson said. "Family members were there, but not my wife and not my son, who was just adopted at that point, and now is two weeks away from being 2 years old. What a thrill. We'll have some pictures with him and my wife and the trophy, so it's nice."

Watson won by two shots over Dustin Johnson, who closed with a 66 for the second straight week and got the same result—second place. Johnson finished one shot behind Jimmy Walker last week at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"When you shoot 14 under on the weekend, it's tough to beat that," Johnson said.

Watson, who started the final round four shots behind William McGirt, made up ground so quickly that he broke out of



Bubba Watson holds the winner's trophy after victory in the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014. AP

a four-way tie for the lead with a birdie on the eighth hole and made the turn in 30. Equally critical were a pair of par saves with 7-foot putts on the 12th and 13th holes.

It was quite a turnaround from his last event, the Phoenix Open, where Watson made two late bogeys and finished one shot behind Kevin Stadler.

Presented another chance,

he wasn't about to let this one get away.

Watson finished at 15-under 269, and he wasn't the only big winner.

Jason Allred, who went to college up the coast at Pepperdine, played bogey-free for a 68 and tied for third with Brian Harman, who also had a 68. Allred was a Monday qualifier, and this was his first regular

PGA Tour event since he last had his card in 2008.

The tie for third was a career-best for the 33-year-old Allred. He earned \$388,600, which is more than he had made in his entire career, which included two full seasons on the PGA Tour. He now is exempt into the Honda Classic, which starts in two weeks—about the time his wife is due with their third child.

"We'll have fun figuring out what that looks like," Allred said.

Watson won for the fifth time in his career, and he had to earn it. With no margin for error over the closing holes, he managed to get out of a deep fairway bunker on the 15th hole to the front edge of the green. He smartly played to the middle of the green on the par-3 16th hole for a par. Facing the uphill tee shot

on the 18th, he blasted his drive down the middle of the fairway and hit wedge into 15 feet to the right of the pin.

Johnson, meanwhile, now has finished among the top six in all four tournaments this season—including a win in Shanghai and consecutive runner-up finishes. His other start was at Kapalua, where he tied for sixth.

"I had a chance there on the back nine, I just didn't have good looks on 16, 17 and 18 to give myself a chance," he said. "I was still right there. That's all you can ask for."

McGirt, who had a two-shot lead to start the final round as he tried to win for the first time, opened with a birdie and stalled after that. And on yet another gorgeous day at Riviera, this was not a day to stall.

The pack behind took aim and made birdies, particularly Watson.

Watson hit a perfect tee shot on the par-3 fourth that rode the slope to 15 feet for birdie. He holed a bunker shot from left of the sixth green for birdie. And a 15-footer on the eighth gave Watson his fifth birdie of the round, and the outright lead. He never gave it back.

McGirt closed with a 73 and tied for sixth.

Jordan Spieth, one shot out of the lead through seven holes, had four bogeys on the back nine and shot 71 to tie for 12th. Jimmy Walker, a three-time winner this season, closed with a 73 and tied for 20th.

"My first win since the Masters," Watson said. "You never know when your last win is going to be. My last win could have been the Masters, which would have been a great way to go out. But winning here at Northern Trust is nice. I never felt down that I haven't won yet, but just kept plugging along. And somehow, it fell in my lap today."

Russia forced into must-win hockey game



SOCHI, Russia (AP)—Russia is having a tough time winning on the Olympic ice, and the Netherlands can't seem to lose.

The Russians were forced into a second straight shootout on Sunday and now must play an extra game to reach the men's hockey quarterfinals. The Dutch speedskaters have fared much better, earning a third sweep of the podium at the Sochi Games.

With hockey-crazed Russian crowds packing the arenas, Canada, Sweden, the United States and Finland advanced to the hockey quarterfinals. They'll be joined by the winners of a four-game qualifying round next Tuesday among the eight remaining teams.

Russia lost its chance to skip

the qualifying round when it was forced into a shootout by Slovakia, winning 1-0. That allowed Finland to claim the bye on goal difference. Canada, Sweden and the U.S. all finished the qualifying round undefeated.

At the Adler Arena, Dutch skaters swept the podium in the women's 1,500 meters. Overall, the Dutch have won an astounding 16 speedskating medals in Sochi out of 24 awarded so far, smashing the Olympic record of 13 set by East Germany at the 1988 Calgary Games.

Two snowboarders were taken off the slope on stretchers Sunday following crashes during qualifying rounds for the snowboardcross finals. One suffered a concussion, the other an injured knee. It was the same slope where Russian skicross racer Maria Komissarova fractured a vertebra in

her back during a training crash Saturday. She was airlifted to a German hospital Sunday for further treatment.

Elsewhere on Day 10 of the Sochi Olympics, Norwegian skier Kjetil Jansrud earned his country's fourth consecutive Olympic title in men's super-G; Czech snowboarder Eva Samkova won her country's first gold medal of the games; and Sweden took gold in the men's 4x10-kilometer cross-country relay.

ALPINE SKIING: Jansrud continued Norway's dominance in super-G, outracing two Americans and a Canadian for the Scandinavian country's fifth gold in the event in the past seven games. Andrew Weibrecht earned the silver medal, while American teammate Bode Miller and Jan Hudec of Canada tied for

bronze. It was Miller's sixth Olympic medal, moving him two behind all-time Alpine leader Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway. At 36, Miller is the oldest Alpine skier to medal.

SNOWBOARDING: Samkova won the women's snowboardcross, the first gold of the games for the Czech Republic. Samkova led from start to finish in all three qualifying and elimination races. Lindsey Jacobellis of the U.S. crashed while leading her semifinal, the third straight disappointing Olympic finish for the eight-time X Games winner. Jacobellis had gold in hand in Turin in 2006 only to fall with a big lead in the final while attempting a fancy grab. She recovered for silver. Four years ago in Vancouver, she washed out early in her semifinal run.

CROSS-COUNTRY: Sweden's win in the 4x10-kilometer relay came one day after the Swedish women had won gold in the same race. No country has won both relays since the old Soviet Union did it 42 years ago. Swedish anchor Marcus Hellner skied alone for the entire fourth leg and grabbed a Swedish flag to wave as he entered the stadium. Russia took silver in front of President Vladimir Putin. France finished third.

SPEEDSKATING: Jorien ter Mors earned the gold in the Dutch sweep of the women's 1,500. Pre-race favorite Ireen Wust settled for silver, with bronze going to Lotte van Beek. If there had been a medal for fourth place, the Dutch would have won that, too, with Marrit Leenstra finishing just after Van Beek. Ter Mors turned in a stunning time of 1 minute, 53.51 seconds, an Olympic record and the sec-

ond-fastest ever at sea level.

CURLING: Sweden and Canada became the first men's teams to qualify for the semifinals. Norway, Britain and China are battling for the other two spots. The Swedes and Canadians also advanced to the semifinals in the women's tournament. China, Britain, Switzerland and Japan still have a chance for the remaining two semifinal spots.

HOCKEY: Phil Kessel became the first American player in 12 years to score an Olympic hat trick in the 5-1 U.S. win over Slovenia. Canada defeated Finland 2-1 in overtime, while Austria won its first men's Olympic hockey game in a dozen years, defeating Norway 3-1. In the women's preliminaries, Finland topped Germany 2-1 and Russia beat Japan 6-2. All four had already been eliminated from medal contention.

Saipan Ice, TBK down foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Saipan Ice & Water Company and TBK Mechanics cruised past separate opponents in the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League last weekend at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Saipan Ice routed Chinatown, 79-59, in last Friday's curtain-raiser, while TBK Mechanics dominated Gwap Gang, 74-64, in last Saturday's opener. IT&E played the Pelicans in last Saturday's second match, while MDX got a win via default over Natural Mystic last Friday.

Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo anchored Saipan Ice's 20-point victory over Chinatown, as he scored a game-high 22 points. He knocked down 10 points in the fourth quarter alone, including a string of 8 points to turn a close match to a blowout.

Before Teregeyo's explosion, Saipan Ice was only ahead by 6 points at the end of the third quarter, 48-42. Saipan Ice went on to sizzle for 31 points, nearly doubling the output

(17) of the entire Chinatown crew in the final canto. Justin Cayading and Derrick Rangamar also contributed in Saipan Ice's fourth-quarter assault, as they nailed 6 points apiece.

Pete Lizama paced Chinatown with his 16 points, but was held to two field goals in the playoff quarter, making the team's first and last basket.

In last Saturday's opening match, TBK had a solid offense in the first half to set up the double-digit victory.

It scored 17 points in the first quarter and limited Gwap Gang to four field goals to take early control of the match. TBK then stretched the lead at halftime, 42-23, as Junar Guiab finished the second quarter with 7 straight points.

Gwap Gang never recovered from thereon, as siblings Ivan and Christian Devero gave TBK a steady source of points, while big man Joe Acosta also contributed to the cause. Christian and Acosta chipped in 12 markers apiece to back up the 16 of Ivan. Guiab also had twin digits, tallying 11 markers, while Francis Rebuyon and Raymond Velasco combined for 16. John Darag led Gwap Gang with his 16 points and although two of his teammates also finished

in double figures, their baskets came when the game was already decided.

FRIDAY GAME

Saipan Ice 79 – Teregeyo 22, Cayading 15, Norita 14, Rangamar 12, R. Saralu 4, T. Kaipat 4, N. Saralu 2, A. Kaipat 2, Sablan 1.

Chinatown 59 – P. Lizama 16, Iglecias 10, Quizon 9, J. Lizama 6, Alipio 6, Libuw 4, Fleming 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-12, 37-25, 48-42, 79-59.

SATURDAY GAME

TBK Mechanics 74 – I. Devero 16, C. Devero 12, Acosta 12, Guiab 11, Rebuyon 8, Velasco 8, Mateo 5.

Gwap Gang 64 – Darag 16, Diaz 12, Dela Rosa 11, Vertudez 6, Sacramento 6, Ito 4, Ano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-9, 42-23, 61-45, 74-64.

Saipan Ice's Justin Cayading escapes the defense of two Chinatown players in this file photo taken during the DL Corp. caging late last year at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. The two teams collided anew in the MDX league last weekend with Saipan Ice winning, 79-59.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



FALCONS

From Page 28

results of last Sunday and Monday's games). IT&E dropped to third with a 3-1 card.

The division co-leader gained crucial three runs at the bottom of the sixth inning to foil IT&E's comeback bid. IT&E moved within one after five innings, 4-5, as it scored in the third to fifth innings after a shutout in the first two innings. Jaime Pangelinan put IT&E on the board with a run off an error from Falcons shortstop Aven Evangelista at the bottom of the third, while Philip Kapileo hit an out-of-the-park solo homer in the fourth. The two other runs were made off a fielder's choice and an RBI single from catcher Christopher Achas in the fifth.

Earlier at the top of the fifth, Angel Iguel gave the Falcons their fifth run when he reached home off an error at

leftfield, while the defending champions' first four runs were all recorded in the second inning. Evangelista was responsible for the two runs at the top of the second, as his single drove Herb Iguel and Zach Reyes, while the two other runs were courtesy off miscues from IT&E starting pitcher Spencer Dickinson and Achas.

The Falcons failed to keep their momentum in the next three innings after zooming to a 4-0 lead and were suddenly clinging to a one-run lead, which they later stretched to four after five and a half innings, 4-8. Justin Cangco blasted an RBI single for the Falcons at the top of the last inning, while the two other runs were delivered off an IT&E wild pitch and error at third base.

Down, but definitely not out, IT&E boosted its chances of mounting another comeback when Kyle Kapileo led off, nailed a double, and reached home off Philip Kapileo's single with

one out. Philip Kapileo then attempted to steal second base, but was caught for the second out and after a fielder's choice, the unbeaten Falcons got the final out with Max Pangelinan catching a grounder from Jose Camacho.

Comets I 11, Red Sox 2

Comets I also remained undefeated after making short work of the Red Sox.

The Comets needed only five innings to beat the Red Sox, who were held to only three hits by pitcher Francisco Frederick. Frederick also gave up no earned runs and struck out seven batters.

While struggling against the Comets I pitcher, the Red Sox were also in disarray on offense, as the latter's errors allowed the former to score two runs each in the second, third, and fourth inning. Comets I then increased the advantage to twin digits, 11-0 after registering four earned runs at the top of the fifth. Sebastian Saures

connected on two-run single, while Tyrone Ongelungel and Frederick hit RBI singles to pad Comet I's lead and leave the Red Sox with a tough task of overhauling a big deficit.

The Red Sox were not up to the challenge, as they only notched two runs off Comets I's errors at second base.

Rockies 34, Ol'Aces 8

The Rockies completed last Saturday's winner's circle, as they whipped the Ol'Aces.

The 34 runs were the most so far this season, not only in the Major division, but also in the entire league.

The Rockies earned the win via mercy rule after only four innings. They saved the best for last, firing 14 runs at the top of the fourth. The Rockies started off with six runs at the top of the first, five in the second, and nine in the third. Most of the runs were recorded off the Ol'Aces' defensive lapses.

THREE

From Page 28

Thursday, 10-1, to stretch their winning run to three. The Braves started off the season with a 2-5 loss to defending champions Padres during the league opener last month before drilling an 11-2 victory over the Lions early this month.

Ricky Joe Renguul towed the Braves to their second win over the Lions after allowing only five hits and one run. The Lions got their lone run in the match at the bottom of the fifth Brandon Dela Cruz reaching home off Renguul's wild pitch. Renguul, who had 13 strikeouts in their first outing with the Lions, more than made up for that wild pitch, as he struck out nine batters in a no-relief job.

While Renguul took care of business on the mound, Lucio Kalen and Frankie Lieto were in charge at the plate. Kalen scored three runs and went 3-for-4 at the plate. Lieto had two RBIs on a 2-for-4 performance at bat and added one run.

The Braves scored in the first four

innings and never gave the Lions a chance to recover after that.

Last year's runners-up also worked on offense early in their match versus the Fielders last Thursday. They bagged three earned runs at the top of the fifth inning off Jeremy Atalig, Frankie Norita, and Haini Blas' RBI singles and two apiece in the next two innings and in the last. The two runs in the second came off a sacrifice fly and error at second base, while Lieto blasted a two-run double in the third, and the two remaining runs were courtesy off a miscue at third base and Jun Rabauliman's RBI single.

The Fielders' only run was registered in the first inning with leadoff batter Jose Lizama scoring off Rabauliman's booby. After Lizama's run, the Fielders were called for three quick outs with Adolpho Roppul getting two of them off strikeouts. Roppul pitched four innings gave up only two hits and added three more strikeouts before Lieto relieved him and closed out for the Braves.

Fielders 4, Padres 3

Meanwhile, the Fielders entered the

win column on Feb. 6 after pulling off an upset over the Padres.

Centerfielder Cody Kaipat delivered the go-ahead run when he reached home off an RBI walk from Khobby Kaipat. The Fielders loaded the bases at the bottom of the sixth inning with Lancaster Secharmidal pitching for the Padres, who then got out of trouble with a double play, followed by a fly out to remain in contention, going into the top of the last inning.

Jordan Taitano led off for the Padres and advanced off a Fielders' error at third base, but was left stranded as the latter got the three quick outs. Jose Lizama, who pitched in no-relief, struck out two batters, while the other out was made off a 4-3 putout play.

It was a sorry loss for the Padres, who managed to get back into the game despite falling behind, 0-3, after five complete innings. The Padres trailed, as the Fielders nailed two runs in the first inning off an RBI walk and a passed ball and added one more in the third off a fielder's choice. Second baseman Ray Tenorio then sparked the defending champions' comeback attempt at the top

of the sixth when he hit a two-run single and the match was back to square one when T.J. Sablan scored off a Fielders miscue at second base.

The Padres had a chance to steal the lead with runners on second and third and with only one out, but the Fielders foiled the bid with a double play. Tenorio was tagged out by Fielders shortstop Devin Ada, who then threw to first for the third out.

LEE

From Page 28

men's singles crown with Beling coasting past Race in yesterday's finale, 8-1, to duplicate his victory over the former in last year's Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Beling finished the round-robin tournament unscathed in three games, as he also prevailed against Fr. Ryan Jimenez, 8-0, and Gary Ramsey, 8-1. Jimenez saved third place after outclassing Ramsey yesterday, 8-4.

Meanwhile, results in the girls singles and mixed-up doubles will be reported later this week.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NORTHERN TRUST OPEN SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scores Sunday from the \$6.7 million Northern Trust Open at the 7,349-yard, par-71 Riviera Country Club:

FINAL

Bubba Watson (500), \$1,206,000	70-71-64-64—269
Dustin Johnson (300), \$723,600	66-70-69-66—271
Jason Alred (0), \$388,600	73-64-67-68—272
Brian Harman (163), \$388,600	67-69-68-68—272
Charl Schwartzel (110), \$268,000	69-68-68-68—273
Bryce Molder (89), \$216,913	69-69-69-67—274
Matt Every (89), \$216,913	69-69-69-67—274
William McGirt (89), \$216,913	69-67-65-73—274
George McNeill (89), \$216,913	69-68-66-71—274
Harris English (73), \$174,200	70-69-69-67—275
Brendan Steele (73), \$174,200	68-71-67-69—275
K.J. Choi (58), \$127,300	69-72-67-68—276
Charley Hoffman (58), \$127,300	67-71-68-70—276
Sang-Moon Bae (58), \$127,300	67-66-72-71—276
Cameron Tringale (58), \$127,300	68-70-67-71—276
Jordan Spieth (58), \$127,300	72-66-67-71—276
Charlie Bejian (58), \$127,300	67-68-68-73—276
Aaron Baddeley (53), \$97,150	69-65-72-71—277
John Senden (53), \$97,150	71-70-66-70—277
Keegan Bradley (50), \$80,847	68-70-72-68—278
Lee Westwood (50), \$80,847	69-70-68-71—278
Jimmy Walker (50), \$80,847	67-71-67-73—278
Kevin Chappell (46), \$57,955	71-70-69-69—279
Jim Furyk (46), \$57,955	69-69-74-67—279
Robert Garrigus (46), \$57,955	68-68-71-72—279
Hideki Matsuyama (46), \$57,955	67-67-73-72—279
Bill Haas (46), \$57,955	70-69-69-71—279
Robert Allenby (40), \$42,601	72-67-67-73—279
Daniel Summerhays (40), \$42,601	71-69-71-69—280
Geoff Ogilvy (40), \$42,601	74-68-69-69—280
Blake Adams (40), \$42,601	71-70-69-71—281
David Lingmerth (40), \$42,601	70-69-70-71—280
James Hahn (40), \$42,601	71-72-65-72—280
Brendon Todd (34), \$33,031	71-70-69-71—281
Ernie Els (34), \$33,031	71-70-68-72—281
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano (34), \$33,031	71-70-71-69—281
Kevin Streelman (34), \$33,031	72-69-73-67—281
John Huh (34), \$33,031	71-71-72-67—281
J.J. Henry (29), \$26,130	70-69-71-72—282
Victor Dubuisson (0), \$26,130	70-72-68-72—282
Jhonattan Vegas (29), \$26,130	70-69-71-72—282
Francesco Molinari (0), \$26,130	67-73-71-71—282
Luke Guthrie (29), \$26,130	71-69-67-73—282
Justin Rose (23), \$18,779	70-72-68-73—283
Stuart Appleby (23), \$18,779	72-71-67-73—283
Scott Stallings (23), \$18,779	67-72-72-72—283
Scott Brown (23), \$18,779	70-67-74-72—283
Vijay Singh (23), \$18,779	75-67-70-71—283
Richard H. Lee (23), \$18,779	69-72-73-69—283
Davis Love III (23), \$18,779	71-71-73-68—283
Angel Cabrera (16), \$15,467	69-71-71-73—284
Ken Duke (16), \$15,467	71-69-69-75—284
Justin Leonard (16), \$15,467	70-72-70-72—284
J.B. Holmes (16), \$15,467	67-71-75-71—284
Will MacKenzie (16), \$15,467	73-69-72-70—284
Hunter Mahan (16), \$15,467	70-73-71-70—284
Billy Hurley III (16), \$15,467	70-71-74-69—284
David Lynn (10), \$14,539	70-71-74-74—285
Matt Jones (10), \$14,539	67-73-70-75—285
Erik Compton (10), \$14,539	74-67-71-73—285
Ian Poulter (10), \$14,539	72-70-71-72—285
Jason Gore (10), \$14,539	71-69-74-71—285
Marc Leishman (10), \$14,539	69-74-71-71—285
Martin Laird (5), \$13,869	70-73-70-73—286
Relief Goosen (5), \$13,869	73-69-73-71—286
Tim Wilkinson (5), \$13,869	71-72-73-70—286
Jason Dufner (5), \$13,869	70-72-72-74—288
Ben Crane (2), \$13,534	72-70-69-76—287
Harold Varner III (0), \$13,199	69-72-72-75—288
Martin Flores (1), \$13,199	72-69-73-74—288
Webb Simpson (1), \$13,199	70-72-72-74—288
Graham DeLaet (1), \$13,199	70-73-72-73—288
Michael Putnam (1), \$12,864	71-72-75-72—290
Pat Perez (1), \$12,730	69-72-73-78—292
Ben Curtis (1), \$12,596	70-73-74-78—295
Scott Piercy (1), \$12,462	71-69-76-83—299

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014 White Coconut Classic Part 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Julia Ishikawa makes a backhand return during her and sister Alina's mixed-up doubles game against Ken Song and Jim Tuttle.



Michael Ren goes for a long forehand return to Jake Lee during their U18 singles match.



Carol Lee chases the ball down the baseline during her game against Negahr Rastguiy in the girls U18 singles division of the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Negahr Rastguiy gets ready to serve against Carol Lee.



Ken Imai serves to Ji Min Woo.



Ken Song returns to siblings Alina and Julia Ishikawa.



Jamin Elliot serves during his and Ken Imai's mixed-up doubles game against Ji Min Woo and partner.



Ji Min Woo leans over for a return, while his teammate stays at the back line.



Erie Ortega attempts a baseline return during her and Joy Minor's mixed-up doubles game against Christian Miller and Tiara Imai.



Rintaro Miyawaki uses both hands for a shot during his and Carol Lee's mixed-up double match versus Colin Ramsey and partner.



*East gets by
Durant, Griffin to
win All-Star game*

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

*Watson ends a
2-year winless
drought at Riviera*

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee dethrones Minor in U18 finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jake Lee foiled Thea Minor's bid for back-to-back titles in the co-ed U18 singles division of the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament after waltzing his way to an 8-2 win in yesterday's finals at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



It was Lee's first boys U18 title, as he fell short in his debut in the age group in 2012 and missed last year's tournament. The newly crowned champion barged into the finals after easing past Colin Ramsey in the first semis game last Saturday, 8-1. Minor, who won last year's title against Amami Sakano, 8-2, earned a return trip to the finals after spoiling Christian Miller's comeback in the other semis match, 8-2.

Joining Lee on the champions list in the singles were Rintaro Miyawaki, Ken Song, Luther Lizama, and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan teaching pro Luke Beling.

Miyawaki also clinched his first U10 singles crown after ruling the round-robin U10 singles competition. He went unbeaten in three games, securing the championship yesterday morning after downing rival Ji Min Woo, 6-3. Before their outing yesterday, Miyawaki and Woo held similar 2-0 records. The U10



champion topped Daniel Kang in Week 1 of the annual event, 6-4, and shut out Anthony Gregoire last Saturday, 6-0, to move a win away from bagging the boys U10 title. Woo also blanked Gregoire, 6-0, in the opening week before outclassing Kang last Saturday, 6-2. Kang rounded out the Top 3 after whipping Gregoire yesterday, 6-0.

In the boys U12 singles, the top-ranked Song lived up to his lofty billing after an 8-2 title win over Sean Lee yesterday morning. The finals showdown between the Top 2 players in the draw took place after Song eliminated Jamin Elliot in the upper bracket semis, 8-1, and Lee ousted Gang Min im in the lower side, 8-6.

In the boys U14 finale, Lizama survived a rally from Robbie Schorr, who came back from a 1-6 deficit and even tied the match at 6-all, before the former took the last two games to eke out the tough 8-6 triumph.

Lizama was seeded second in the draw and booked a finals berth after beating Tony Kim in the semis of the bottom half bracket, while Schorr got a free finals pass after a victory via walk-over against the injured and top-ranked Michael Ren. Ren did not play in the consolation match, too, giving the third place trophy to Kim.

Meanwhile, Beling made it two in a row against fellow coach Jeff Race. The two mentors slugged it out for the

See LEE on Page 26

Jake Lee goes for a backhand return from the baseline during his title game against Thea Minor in the co-ed U18 singles event of the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Falcons extend streak to four

Three in a row for Braves; Fielders nip Padres



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NSA Braves swept their two games last week in the Senior League division of in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Braves eased past the Lions, 7-1, last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and then dominated the Fielders last

See THREE on Page 26

The Fielders' Khobby Kaipat waits for the pitch, while Padres catcher Quinson Blas stands by during the bottom of the third inning of their Big League game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Defending champions Falcons won the battle of unbeaten teams in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League, thwarting IT&E, 8-5, last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The victory was the fourth in a row for the Falcons and put them in a tie for first place with Comets I (pending

See FALCONS on Page 26

Max Pangelinan, seen here making eye contact with their catcher, pitched in no-relief for the Falcons in their 8-5 win over IT&E in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

